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# THE Hongkong Weekly Press

## AND China Oberland Trade Report.

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### BIRTHS.

On 22nd December, at Shanghai, the wife of J. MEATHEREL, of a daughter.  
On 24th December, at Shanghai, the wife of T. W. SPOTTISWOODE, of a daughter.  
On 28th December, at Shanghai, the wife of E. V. JESSEN, of a son.  
On 28th December, at Tientsin, the wife of SIDNEY BARTON, of H.B.M. Consular service, of a son.  
On 29th December, at Maternity Hospital, Mrs. H. A. BURKE, a son.  
On 29th December, at the Homestead, Peak, the wife of E. H. SHARP, K.C., of a daughter.

### DEATH.

On 28th December, at Shanghai, HILDEGARDE, the infant daughter of CHARLES and MARY EDNA RIEVELY.

## Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.  
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

### ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of December 5th arrived per the ss. *Boon*, on Wednesday, the 6th inst. and the French Mail of December 8th is due to arrive, per the ss. *Caledonien*, some time tomorrow.

### FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Foreigners are no longer to be admitted to view Chinese forts, as formerly.

Peking was kept informed of the progress of recent events at Shanghai by over two hundred telegrams.

The period for Chinese Ministers abroad will not in future be limited to three years, but if they are suitable they will remain longer.

The Singapore Government has introduced a Bill providing for the more adequate treatment of "beachcombers," who have become a great nuisance there.

The lease of Wei-hai-wei depends on the lease of Port Arthur, and hence the negotiations on the matter with the British Minister can begin only after the new treaty with Japan has been published.

The Japanese South-China squadron, it appears, was only recently organised, and it consists of the cruisers "Takachiho" and "Chitose" and the gunboats "Ujina" and "Sumida." Rear-Admiral Taketomi is in command.

At the Land Office recently a piece of land situate at Ling Chau Island containing 18,295 square feet, was sold by public auction. Mr. Nip Tseung Tsoi being the purchaser for \$693, this amount being \$510 above the upset price.

While carrying a bottle of lemonade along the passage way of the Hongkong police quarters a boy employed by Sergeant Kent slipped on the concrete and fell. The lemonade bottle broke, and severed his thumb from his hand.

Sir Robert Hart has expressed to the Wai-wupu and Hupu the opinion that it is very difficult to carry out the plan of an opium monopoly in China, and H. E. Tieh Liang proposes therefore to adopt some other plan of raising money.

The last week of the year was blank as regards plague. The totals for 1905 are therefore 304 cases, with 286 fatalities. There was one case of diphtheria (Portuguese) recorded in the last week, and one case each of enteric fever and smallpox (both Chinese).

On Dec. 20, the shaft of the Uhemura Colliery, in the Asa district, Yamiguchi prefecture, Japan, collapsed and the mine was flooded. It is reported that 267 men were at work in the mine when the disaster occurred, but the exact loss of life is at present not known.

The service on the Peak tramway was interrupted for about 40 minutes, on January 2nd through the ascending car meeting with a slight mishap. The occupants of the car were somewhat startled when it ran back a little way, but their fears were soon allayed when they learned the cause of the delay.

The annual meeting of the American Association of China was held on Dec. 28 at Shanghai. The Association has a bank balance of \$1,180.38. Dr. Gilbert Reid was elected president, Mr. J. F. Seaman, vice-president, and Professor Lacey Sites, secretary. The Association sent a protest to Washington in consequence of the absence of any American warship during the recent crisis.

The Nippon Race Club at Yokohama held its annual business meeting last month. It contributed 3,000 yen for the relief of sufferers by the war, bought all the land lying within the circle of the course, decided to erect a new grandstand to seat 4,500 persons (at a cost of about 17,000 yen), and recorded its regret at the death of Baron Sanomiya, "an old friend of the club." A presentation was made to Mr. Mori for his help toward the acquisition of the long desired land.

A difficulty has arisen in regard to the engagement of professors for the Imperial Military Academy for Nobles, owing to the fact that the Ministers of the various Powers are urging the appointment of professors of their respective nationalities. Prince Ching favours the selection of Japanese officers, but H. E. Tien Liang suggests Austrians, on the ground that the Austrian Army is not inferior to the German while Austria has very little diplomatic relation with China.

Mr. Kuan, magistrate sitting with Mr. B. Twyman, British Assessor, at the Shanghai Mixed Court on December 29th, heard a charge against a chair coolie of plying for hire without a license within the Settlement, contrary to Municipal Regulations. Mr. Kuan objected to the coolie being fined \$1, and said he did not recognise the so-called chair tax, but allowed the fine to be imposed under protest. Magistrate Kuan marked the charge sheet "\$1 deposited to await consideration."

The New Year was ushered in with the customary rejoicings both in Hongkong city and harbour. When the hour of twelve was tolled, the firing of crackers, blowing of horns, etc., welcomed the advent of 1906, this being accompanied by the usual exchange of compliments and visits. Watch night services were held in several places of worship, in the Union Church there being a tea at 7.30, followed by a sacred concert, a lantern, exhibition, supper, and watch night service.

The sales of Bengal opium up to and including the December sale show a result which is 25½ lakhs better than the estimate, but this surplus is swallowed up by the heavy falling off in the sale of Malwa opium, which up to November amounted to nearly 27 lakhs, owing to the increase of the monthly sales of Bengal opium. Given 4,000 to 4,400 chests with effect from January, the receipts for the next three months will doubtless be in excess of the estimates, but at the moment the results are Rs. 167,000 worse than was budgeted for.

An official review of reports on the administration of Mints and Assay Departments at Calcutta and Bombay for the last year is published. The tenders of gold at the mints exceeded in value those of the preceding twelve months—themselves a record—by over a crore of rupees. The total value of gold tendered was close upon twelve crores. Nearly eleven crores of new rupees were coined. Another feature of the year was the formation of an ingot reserve of silver, to consist ordinarily of three hundred lakhs of silver, to be held ready for coinage into rupees to meet any urgent demand, but not to be used except under special orders of Government.

The following is a list of authorized Hongkong architects under Section 7 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903:—Messrs A. Abdoolrahman, H. W. Bird, Guy Blood, J. F. Boulton, A. Bryer, W. Chatham, W. Dandy, A. Denison, H. G. C. Fisher, C. H. Gale, L. Gibbs, A. E. Griffin, B. B. Harker, E. M. Hazeland, A. H. Hewitt, A. H. Hollingsworth, A. S. Hooper, P. N. H. Jones, W. P. Lambert, J. E. Lee, John Lemm, J. C. Lowe, D. Macdonald, J. McGubbin, J. Orange, A. H. Ough, T. L. Perkins, S. J. Powell, E. A. Ram, A. R. F. Raven, C. H. Rew, L. A. Rose, A. P. Samy, G. J. B. Sayer, C. B. Thomas, H. P. Tooker, A. Turner, C. Warren, W. L. W. Weaser, Wong Kat Son and Wong A. Cheong.



## THE CANTON VICEROY.

(Daily Press, 30th December).

Viceroy SHUM, or, as he is officially styled, H. E. TS'EN CH'UN-HSIAN, Governor-General of the Liang Kwang, is a remarkable Chinaman, around whose name various strange stories linger. If only half of the things said of him be true, he must be a man of peculiarly manifold character and versatile gifts. He is by turns a military hero, a finished courtier, a HAROUN AL RASCHID, a conservative Chinaman, an impulsive politician, and a rabid anti-foreigner. He has played many parts. It was he who seized the opportunity of the DOWAGER-EMPRESS's flight from Peking in 1900 to prove at once his personal heroism and his whole-hearted and self-sacrificing devotion to the Throne. With a mere handful of followers he waylaid the imperial refugees, defied either foreigners or Boxers to touch them—happily there were none in sight—and himself disturbed the aged EMPRESS's repose by noisily planting himself at Her Majesty's bedroom door, and declaiming that none should approach her save over his dead body. The lady was worried and anxious, very tired and uncomfortable away from her usual luxurious surroundings; but however much she might then be disposed for sleep, she could not fail to mark these noble traits, and make mental resolutions to remember their exponent as one of her most trusty servants and loyal friends. The former Sub-director of the Court of Imperial Entertainments, and the sifter on Financial Commissions, was there and then marked for preferment when happier times should come. In less than two years he got his Yellow Jacket, and a few months later—in May 1902—he was hustled away with mixed feelings to the far south, as Governor of Kwangtung. This was a reward for which he had to appear grateful; but in his heart of hearts he regretted the necessity of residing so far away from the light of the Imperial Countenance; as also from the backstairs of Peking, where a shrewd man may go softly and fare prosperously. His grateful MISTRESS wotted not of this; she had the consciousness of having to some extent paid a debt; and there was a chorus of courtiers around her, telling her that she had indeed chosen wisely and behaved generously. This confirmation of her judgment no doubt led to SHUM's ultimate elevation to the Viceroyalty of the two Kwang. Our Canton correspondents have repeatedly told us of HIS EXCELLENCY's delicate state of health, and his consequent requests—most conscientious they seemed—to be relieved from his onerous duties, to which he no longer felt quite equal. We were told of the disinterested way in which he nominated one person after another as capable to undertake the tasks which were too important to be left to a sickly man, whose only ambition was to retire into privacy and peace. Perhaps the courtiers at Peking were afraid HIS EXCELLENCY would not be content to plant cabbages. At any rate, every time he showed signs of wishing to resign his post, they rushed in memorials, pointing out how important his district was, in view of its dangerous juxtaposition to Hongkong, and how important it was to have such a good and able and faithful man in charge there. HER MAJESTY listened to these grnaises of her favourite complacently, and in the kindest way possible, with many compliments, told him she could not think of accepting his resignation. She sent him medicines, advised him to get the best medical advice, to take a holiday; but on no

account to desert her service. It would have seemed thankless, and a breach of etiquette, for SHUM to suggest that his health might mend if he had a post nearer the throne, so he is still at Canton. It was he who sought to cheat his "squeezing" retinue by receiving petitions direct; but they poured in in such numbers that his good resolutions bleached and withered in sight of so much hard work. His AL RASCHID exploits lose their halo by his weakness in having favourites whom he allows to grab and squeeze in the old sweet way—notably the recently recounted trick of his dear friend the ADMIRAL—and we must confess we do not like his recent pronouncement that "the indiscriminate employment of foreigners . . . is liable to create international difficulties." [Vide to-day's Canton letter.] We know that HIS EXCELLENCY is not above using the compliant foreigners who are sometimes found willing to work against less compliant foreigners; and we know that Viceroy SHUM does not love any kind of foreigner. He makes a rule, it appears, that no official body or individual shall purchase any sort of machinery from foreigners without consulting him first. So far as the message goes, it is perhaps innocent enough; but in conjunction with the spirit always behind it and similar proclamations, it will be worth while to keep a sharp eye open for developments.

## SANITARY BOARD ELECTION.

(Daily Press, 30th December.)

The community has reason to view with genuine regret the retirement of the Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C., and Mr. AHMET RUMJAHN from the Sanitary Board,—a body whose administration so intimately affects the welfare and prosperity of the Colony as a whole, and the comfort and health of every individual resident. The ratepayers have watched with interest the work of their representatives on the Board, so far as newspaper reports of the fortnightly meetings reveal the services they render, but the bulk of the work is done "behind the screens" as the Chairman expressed it, and knowing as he must do the full value of each member's services, his generous testimony to the work of the retiring members, whom he described as having been "towers of strength" to the Board in times of difficulty, is a compliment on which a high value must be set, and it is one which must be appreciated by the community whose interests they have served no less than by the retiring members themselves. Mr. POLLOCK's retirement is due to his election to the Legislative Council, where the knowledge he has gleaned during his membership of the Sanitary Board cannot fail to be of great utility in the consideration of the legislative projects which from time to time come up for discussion. The term for which both Mr. POLLOCK and Mr. RUMJAHN were elected does not expire until March next, but as Mr. RUMJAHN contemplates a visit to Europe next year, he has decided to retire with Mr. POLLOCK so as to obviate the necessity of two elections. Another change has just occurred on the Sanitary Board almost without public comment. Mr. M. W. SLADE, one of the nominees of H.E. the GOVERNOR, has retired and Mr. E. A. HEWETT has been appointed in his stead. Mr. HEWETT is a desirable acquisition to the Board and his return to this sphere of public activity will give general satisfaction. Had he not been given a seat as the nominee of the GOVERNOR, we do not doubt that he would have been elected by the ratepayers

as one of their representatives. But now that the three gentlemen who figured as candidates in the recent election for the Legislative Council are disposed of, it is not easy to name offhand two probable candidates for the vacant seats. Mr. A. SHELTON HOOPER, who was a candidate at the last election, it is hoped will be one on this occasion. We know of no one in the Colony capable of rendering greater service on the Board to the general public, especially at the present time when so many of the difficulties of the Board arise out of the operation of the new Public Health and Buildings Ordinance and when landlords and tenants alike are harassed by vexatious interpretations of some of its provisions. Few men have a better knowledge of that Ordinance than Mr. SHELTON HOOPER, who was Chairman of the Committee which sat upon the Bill before its enactment, and few we venture to think can have a better acquaintance with its defects which landlords and tenants alike would wish to see remedied. So far we have heard of no other possible candidate, but we doubt not the occasion will show that Hongkong is not lacking in public-spirited citizens prepared to devote their time and ability to such service of the public as is entailed by membership of the Sanitary Board.

## THE CUSTOMARY THING.

(Daily Press, 1st January.)

Good resolutions are in order; and though new year resolves have come to be regarded like other promises and piecrusts, made to be broken, we cannot wish our readers, as we now do, one and all, a more happy and prosperous year than the one just over, without stipulating that the old custom of turning over a new leaf be adhered to for all it is worth. After all, a little of the enterprise is apt to bear fruit; and we cannot deny that, for one reason or another (chiefly the idea that the times have been put out of joint by "the war"), we have been prone to a policy of "maskee." Would it not be agreeable if the Government were to make a resolution that it would start in earnest to consider if business could not be helped by a Bill compelling all Chinese partnerships to be registered; to try and make life easier for our householders by instituting the official registration of servants; and to make up their minds to remember that Hongkong is after all a foreign city, foreign made, and that Chinese prejudices have been humoured long enough. A resolution not to let 1906 pass away without continuing the attack upon insanitary areas would be quite the proper thing to make this week. In the old days, when the Chinese had to be coaxed into the Colony, it was good policy to make allowances for their habits; but they need no inviting now, even after the foreigner has put his foot down with regard to certain matters. Seventy years ago, come six months, the virile hand of Lord PALMERSTON made itself felt in the Canton river: it would be pleasant to find a similar spirit animating local politics once more. It would be pleasant, also, to learn that all directors and managers of local businesses, particularly public companies, had resolved to shut their eyes to all excuses, war effects, high exchange, enervating climate, and all other; and to induce some of the "hustle" that is regarded as a necessity elsewhere. The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN's remark concerning sport was wrongly taken up and grievously misinterpreted: there can be no doubt that we need to concentrate more attention upon business. Pleasant as life is in Hongkong,



socially and otherwise, there can be no two opinions that it has its peers. To quote a common saying, we are not out here for our health's sake. Business is our *raison d'être*; and therefore resolutions in the direction of "strict attention to business" ought to be in order just now. Hongkong is averse to changes; the Chinese conservatism seems to pervade and permeate the local air. Hongkong was long in making up its mind that it would have to revise its methods when the Suez Canal was made. Then changes were resisted; the removal of the dominating centre to London was mistrusted; but who could have foreseen that Suez would have made Hongkong what it is to-day? There have been innovations as great since—Japanese evolution is a Suez, Chinese railway development is a Suez; European politics are a Suez—we must wake up to vastly changed conditions all round; and ask ourselves if there is nothing we can do to fall into step with the rest of the world. If we are to do it, now is the acceptable time—now in these first days of 1906.

### BISHOPS AND STATISTICS.

(Daily Press, 3rd January.)

It has often been said, and not without a show of reason, that you can prove anything from statistics. Certain very worthy people, and notably so high an authority as the BISHOP of London, have been trying to teach therefrom the deterioration of British morals, as well as the lapse from virtue of the British race. It cannot be denied that they do exhibit a very marked alteration in the conditions of British life, which is, moreover, most marked with regard to England, though both Scotland and Ireland are following very closely the lead of the senior partner. The most marked feature in these statistics is that the population of England and Wales is rapidly becoming a community of aged men and women. Fifty years ago the average length of life was under fifty, last year's statistics show that it had gone up to almost seventy-one and a half (actually over seventy-one and five months). There is no doubt that this change has been brought about by the improved care taken in sanitary affairs; and that those that now inhabit the land live both cleaner and pleasanter lives; and, of course, this brings about concomitant changes. One of the principal of these is that in face of a longer expectation of life, and the increased expenses of living under generally improved conditions, marriages take place later in life in both sexes, and later marriages often verging on the limits of the period of fertility mean fewer births. Thus, while to every thousand living but a few years ago over thirty children were born, last year the number was reduced to but a third of one over twenty-seven. This is the factor which, not unnaturally, leads to most misgivings. To a considerable extent, as we have seen, the explanation is simple, and follows easily comprehensible rules, but there is a margin not quite so easily comprehended. Logically it might seem that the greater the ease of a community, the larger would be the birth-rate, but experience seems to prove the contrary. When a country is wasted by war or pestilence it might be anticipated that the birth-rate would fall, but it is in times of trouble and pestilence that actually the number of births has a tendency to increase. More, the largest birth-rate is not amongst nations enjoying the greatest amount of peace and prosperity. When the Irish people were at their poorest

point and lived upon nothing but potatoes from one year's end to another, the birth-rate was actually the highest on record. In the beginning of 1846 the population was actually double what it is at present now that the people are well to do, and have practically as much comfort as their fellow countrymen in England. The same is true of Russia; in no country in Europe has the birth-rate been so high as in the agricultural provinces of European Russia, and for the same reason as in the Ireland of the early years of the past century, namely, that the people had been reduced to living on one uncertain crop, and were reduced so low that practically every prudential check to over-population had been destroyed. For a similar reason, the population of France, probably the richest in Europe, has become practically stationary, because prudence has been overdone. But leaving that out of consideration, as it is more or less artificial, there is, as we have seen above, a natural and unconscious check working in the same direction. For some three centuries the population of England had remained to all intent stationary: to all intents and purposes the people were happy and contented with their lot. It is true they had not those luxuries and comforts which the most ordinary Englishman looks for now-a-days, but they did not desire them because they did not know of them. With the close of the eighteenth century came a great change, new industries were developed, new and richer countries opened to settlement; but the people did not at once become the happier, —far from it; they began to grow discontented with their lot. True, with the growth of the new industries the condition of the working classes became harder and harder, and the worker found that the former sympathy that existed between master and man had altered for the worse, and that beyond exacting the largest amount of labour for the minimum of pay the master had come to conceive that his duties towards the worker had ceased. It was under such conditions that the birth-rate commenced abnormally to increase, and that the first growth of the population of the early half of the century took place.

Instead, then, of looking at the present slow increase of the population at home as an abnormal case, and connecting it with any special outburst of immorality, such as the BISHOP of London sees in the decreasing birth-rate, it would be more in consonance with the known facts of the case to see in it merely a return to normal conditions of population. The abnormal birth-rate of the last century was, we have seen, brought about by the sudden opening up of new industries to an extent such as had never previously occurred in the world's history, and which had doubled the capacity of the land for supporting a population. Even with the present number of inhabitants the country does not produce quite sufficient food to support the number who have to be fed; and a large portion of their earnings has to go abroad to be exchanged for food. Besides this, there has arisen no special new industry, and the world at large is beginning to manufacture for itself those commodities for which half a century ago it was largely dependent on the United Kingdom. Altogether, then, and more especially when we take into consideration the very great prolongation of life, which enables each individual not only to live a longer and more easy life, but also permits him while enjoying a life of comparative ease to actually do more work during his term of existence, there is no reason to look for any external reason to

account for the comparatively slow growth of population which has marked the last fifteen years, nor to look upon the causes which have brought about this new phase as other than natural, and proceeding from a wise Providence, which, as SHAKESPEARE says, shapes our ends, rough hew them how we may.

### A MIXED COURT SNAPSHOT.

(Daily Press, 4th January.)

The Shanghai TAOTAI, writing to the SENIOR CONSUL there to explain the arrangements for re-opening the Mixed Court, got as near to SILAS WEGG as a Chinese official may. If he did not exactly drop into poetry, he burst into eloquence, as he enlightened the barbarous foreign official's ignorance concerning law and order. Perhaps the SENIOR CONSUL would not quarrel with His Excellency's dictum that as a judicial tribunal stands for law and order in a community, the continued closing of the Mixed Court must involve an absence in Shanghai of law and order. A SENIOR CONSUL does not advance laboured argument to meet claptrap. He must, however, have raised his eyebrows when he read a passage referring to the "scene" in the Mixed Court on December 12, which was, the TAOTAI wrote, "a thing altogether unseemly and unbecoming the dignity which ought to be maintained in such a place." The "what ought to be" and the "what is" often fail to compare in this world; and those who know the tribunal in question will wonder just where the desiderated dignity has ever been permitted to discover itself. The noises heard when approaching the Mixed Court in session are something like the noise that comes from a school playground. Inside the scene affords absolutely no sense of what the foreign observer understands by dignity. On a low dais in the middle of a singularly neglected and dirty hall, the Chinese Magistrate and Foreign Assessor sit, side by side, at a desk. The floor space immediately in front of them is lined on two sides by a much mixed Chinese crowd, of runners, informers, prisoners' friends, and spectators—noisy, ragged, and malodorous. The British Assessor, shivering in a great coat (our observations relate to a seance in the first quarter of the year) is the only semi-isolated figure in the room; his Chinese colleague, clad in heavy furs, bespectacled and bebuttoned, looks like an over-ripe peach clustered with intoxicated wasps. Chinese runners, very much out of uniform, their costumes about as variegated and picturesque as those of a gang of coolies, stand on the hem of his robe, so to speak, leaning over his shoulder, brandishing indicatory fingers at the approaching prisoners, even turning over the papers on the magisterial desk. Also, they shout. The clamour is terrible. The prisoners, say three desperadoes from the suburbs, in chains, are dragged in by the queues, and made to kow-tow. After bumping their foreheads on the floor, while the crowd presses closer and almost hides them from view in efforts to scan their faces, the men raise hands towards the magistrate, and shriek their protestations of innocence. A jerk at the queues, and a sly kick, subdues them to momentary silence. The Magistrate, who has glanced at the papers, and made a vermilion hieroglyphic on the margin, half rises. He bellows, positively bellows, something at the prisoners. The chorus erupts as before, including a running commentary by the gang hanging to His Excellency's elbow. A witness is heard, or is presumably heard, it is impossible to feel sure; and



a ragged woman in the crowd rails at both him and the magistrate. She is hustled out, shrieking. A runner lights a cigarette from the glowing fag obligingly held by a colleague. The British Assessor, toying with a fountain pen, murmurs something to the Magistrate. A foreign policeman murmurs to the Assessor. The Magistrate, roaring so as to be heard above renewed clamour, sinks back again into his seat, and rolls his brush on the ink-slab. Another case follows, and so on, *da capo*, and (studying the expression on the Assessor's face) apparently *ad nauseam*. The affair of December 12 must indeed have been something altogether unusual to be described as "a thing altogether unseemly and unbecoming the dignity which ought to be maintained in such a place."

## THE CHINESE POINT OF VIEW.

(Daily Press, 5th January.)

Everybody at some time or other encounters a phrase in reading, which, while it does no more than embody and crystallise a belief they may have held firmly for years, appears to give such belief a definiteness peculiarly gratifying. To many, a sentence from Lieut.-General Sir IAN HAMILTON's "Staff Officer's Scrap-Book during the Russo-Japanese War" will appeal in that way. Drawing a picture of what with his essentially soldierly ideal he regards as "that glorious and impressive survival from heroic times, a nation in arms," and holding up for comparison another less heroic view of an unmilitary nation, Sir IAN HAMILTON goes on to remark, "With our education anti-military, and our Army organized on a basis of wages, we are marching straight in the footsteps of China, who one thousand years ago became so clever as to see that war was a relic of barbarism. So it is; but to neglect its precepts on that account is to hand over the conduct of the world to barbarians." That is a shrewd stroke; one that must greatly disconcert the good people who believe in the possibility of universal peace, and pin their faith to the ideals that were only partly incarnated in the Hague tribunal. The logical conclusion of a world controlled by barbarians gains force by the undeniable fact that there is already a nation which for ages has taken to heart identical ideals, and is now actually in the position of seeing the world controlled by barbarians. China has not always lived strictly up to her ideals; they would cease to be ideals if that were possible in the case of any people; but there is very little doubt that, taken collectively, the Chinese have got nearer to the spirit of their teaching than have the nations which have professed them and indeed gloried in them as a part of something said to be better than mere philosophy. Crudely interpreted, this means an implication that the nations of Christendom have been more hypocritical, greater slaves to humbug; and we lack the courage necessary for an attempt to deny it. The preachers of the religion of peace have always shown a singular unanimity in ignoring the ideal when faced by everyday, practical issues; and have shouted for war with the lustiest of the laity. There was the famous recent utterance of a Japanese nobleman, that none of the arts of peace in Japan had brought that nation nearer to recognition as a civilised one; and that it was only when their ability to kill people was recognised that the nations tumbled over each other in their haste to welcome Japan

into the first-class ranks. There is no glozing away of the meaning of that: it advertises, in manner unmistakable, how little those ideals really do affect us. Our ideals are academic, philosophic, ornamental, conventional, anything but politics for use in times of stress. China, on the other hand, may be said to have given them a very fair trial. There have been sporadic lapses, of course; even CONFUCIUS could "lose his temper," and it would have been interesting to study MARCUS AURELIUS with the toothache, pestered by an insurance agent; but on the whole, China has, as a nation, followed for a thousand years the line of least resistance, and on occasions turned the other cheek. There is surely no necessity to indicate how her adherence to those ideals has "panned out." Neither materially nor spiritually can the Chinese be said to be advanced beyond the ordinary human nature which vents an expletive when its thumbnail is hit with a hammer. After a fair trial, China is going to revert to the methods of barbarism, the scientific, improved methods of barbarism which Christendom sends to the Far East along with its expounders of the antithetic ideals. Japan is frankly barbarian (in this connection). China sees that it has paid her neighbour, and more than that, she hears the other barbarians singing praises of Japan for successful barbarism. Then where do we stand? We cling, wisely, to the methods of barbarism, and we cling, unwisely, to the conventional humbug that forbids us from admitting it. Sir IAN HAMILTON, although he does not say so, sees that it is that humbug which prevents us as much as anything from reaping the full benefit of our practice. We are neither good fighters nor good peace-keepers. He does not suggest that the Japanese soldier is better in all respects than the British; but, after describing the desperate struggle made by a Japanese outpost of thirty-six men against a thousand Russians, he reverts to the question of surrenders, with South Africa in his mind, and confesses that "*ceteris paribus* the surrender type of army may expect to be handsomely thrashed by the no surrender type whenever and wherever they may meet." Does it not seem fair to conclude that, if we exonerate (as we must) the "surrender type" from the suspicion of cowardice, we must regard the impossible ideals as the things that hamper and handicap them?

## FACTORY LABOUR IN JAPAN.

(Daily Press, 7th January.)

The Cotton Spinners' Association of India has put it on record that Japan has become a formidable rival to all India, in the China market for cotton goods. The reasons for the remarkable progress made by the Japanese cotton factories, which are generally yarn mills that both spin and weave, as given by Japanese themselves, are partly what foreign observers would deem handicaps in the race for trade success; and it is worth while making a note of what these are, for possible future reference when Capital and the large employers of labour begin to cast about for remedies for handicaps and hindrances already experienced. Some firms in England have done something on the same lines, but not quite the same; and the prattle of philanthropy accompanying their efforts has possibly had the effect of frightening away business men who have no time to consider any goal but that of profits. If it can be shown that a paternal policy of

treating employees does away with strikes, poverty, and other features of manufacturing centres, and that it pays the employer as well, then the desired effect may be sooner obtained, even though with a less magnificent motive. The Japanese claim to have no labour troubles; and if they have, they have so far been less heard of than in Great Britain and other manufacturing countries, including India. The secret, they say, is that the feudal system persists in the relationship of employer and employed. The *Business Man's Magazine* publishes a descriptive article about the methods of the Kanegafuchi Spinning Co., Ltd.; and while we do not ask anybody to believe that "the employers are so unselfish and sympathetic that the employees cannot be unloyal or disobedient," we may remark that the example of this company seems worth the careful consideration of, and emulation by, employers of labour elsewhere who have no intention of posing as philanthropists. The "Kanabo," as this company is popularly called, runs a free boarding school for young people aged from thirteen to sixteen years. The pupils are "half timers," who receive the ordinary primary course of instruction, and in addition an evening course of textile and engineering study. At sixteen, the pupils are taken into full employment. The company, meanwhile, has provided everything and made no charge, getting only the slight amount of labour that learners are able to give, in return for food, clothing, and training during the three years. It is the old-fashioned apprenticeship system with a difference. For higher posts, a similar institution is provided for young men who can pass an entrance examination. There are also boarding schools for girl employees. Food is cooked on modern ranges, heated by a special boiler, and served in huge dining halls. Money orders intended for parents are transmitted free of charge by the company. For nursing mothers while at work the company provides physicians, nurses, a creche, and a kindergarten establishment; and generally accepts parental responsibilities. The training which the children receive and later on the schooling obtained from the instructors gives each individual opportunities far above those to be had by the employees in foreign countries. The company also maintains its own hospital, and free bathrooms and laundries. It rents about 400 cottages, and sees that each has as beautiful surroundings as can be arranged. Two journals are conducted, in which suggestions and comments by employees are welcomed, and prizes offered for useful ideas relating to the management of any part of the concern. The company stores foodstuffs, clothing, dry goods, &c., and retails them at cost to its employees. Many employees went to the war; the families left behind did not suffer. A general fund was started, on which the company paid ten per cent. interest, as well as contributing to it; and no employee of "Kanabo" had to trouble any of the public funds. The employees have a recreation park close by. As illustrating the feeling animating the employees, the following message from a soldier at the front is given, "I am always ready to meet my dead comrades, but if such be the Gods' will, I hope to survive and devote my entire future to my beloved 'Kanabo.'" It will naturally be supposed that all this must make a hole in the profits of the Company; but this is not admitted. On the other hand, it is not denied that foreign companies' profits are often seriously impaired by labour troubles. As we have said, there may be a lesson here for somebody.



## SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, 2nd January.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

## SETTLED.

In the case of *Chin Hok Chau v. B. Pinto*, Mr. Hett, who appeared for plaintiff, said notice of a special defence had been filed. An arrangement had since been come to between the parties by which judgment should be for plaintiff, the amount due to be paid by instalments of \$5 a month, and the defendant to have his agreed costs. Mr. J. Grist, for defendant, consented. Judgment was entered accordingly.

A. J. CHOTERMALL AND CO. v. H.

## HOTICHAND.

Mr. Gardiner, from the office of Mr. O. D. Thomson, appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. F. P. Hett for defendant.

Mr. Hett stated that the case had been adjourned to enable the plaintiff to furnish defendant with particulars, but he had not done so, and the action should be struck out.

Mr. Gardiner said the particulars were not yet to hand. Plaintiff had sent to Yokohama for them.

His Lordship asked if there were any prospect of settlement in the event of the particulars coming to hand.

Mr. Hett said he did not think so, unless the vouchers also came down.

His Lordship said he did not want to strike the case out and he would put it on the list for Friday.

## NON-SUITED.

—Rochakam sued H. Hotichand for \$65, being money lent by the firm, of which plaintiff was a partner, to defendant. Mr. Gardiner appeared for plaintiff and Mr. Hett for defendant.

Plaintiff said the money was lent by the Shanghai branch of the firm to defendant, but under cross examination admitted he did not see the money handed over to defendant, the loan being made by his brother at Shanghai.

His Lordship—I am inclined to think the action is wrongly brought.

Mr. Hett—Yes, a partner cannot sue for a partner.

Defendant stated he had received the money, but had repaid it to plaintiff's brother.

His Lordship said the action could not succeed in the form in which it was brought. Judgment would be for defendant with costs.

## A BANKRUPT'S CLAIM.

Lau Hok Chow sued the Shanghai Life Insurance Co. for \$39.94. Mr. C. F. Dixon represented plaintiff, and Mr. Hett defendants.

Mr. Hett said his Lordship would recollect that in this case the plaintiff was an undischarged bankrupt, and Mr. Dixon had been given a week to consider the point.

His Lordship—Yes, he cannot sue in his own name.

Mr. Dixon—I submit in this case the claim being for personal earnings, my client, who is a bankrupt, is in a position to sue.

His Lordship—He cannot sue. He has no status at all. He is a sort of flotsam and jetsam.

Mr. Dixon—I take it no order can be made against him for costs.

His Lordship—He is non-suited. He can go to the Official Receiver if he likes.

Mr. Hett—I have seen the Official Receiver, and if there is anything due it will be paid to him.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

Wednesday, 3rd January.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

## BREAKING A SUBMARINE CABLE.

The China and Japan Electric and Telephone Co., Ltd., brought an action against the China and Manila Steamship Co., Ltd., for \$1,000, damages for breaking plaintiffs' submarine cable by one of defendant's steamships.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K. C. (instructed by Mr. H. G. Bailey), appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K. C. (instructed by Mr. F. B.

Daeon), represented defendants, while Mr. T. L. Gibbs, Mr. T. F. Hough, and Mr. C. H. Grace sat as a special jury.

In their pleadings plaintiffs set forth that on 30th or 31st August the submarine cable belonging to them, situated in the area reserved for submarine cables between Kowloon and North Point—within which area vessels were prohibited from anchoring under the regulations of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance—was injured and broken by reason of the *Rubi* anchoring within such area through the negligence of defendants' servants. Plaintiffs consequently suffered damage to the amount of \$1,038.34 but restricted their claim to \$1,000 to bring it within the Summary Jurisdiction.

Defendants, in their pleadings, denied that plaintiffs' submarine cable was situated within the alleged area and denied that the cable was either injured or broken by their steamship *Rubi*. They further denied that the *Rubi* was at anchor within the said area, and, in the alternative, said that if the *Rubi* was at anchor within the said area and if the cable was thereby injured or broken as alleged, they denied negligence on the part of their servants, and by way of further answer said as follows: The *Rubi* was proceeding on 30th August to the typhoon anchorage in Kowloon Bay and encountered a sudden and violent squall of wind which was accompanied by extraordinary dense and blinding rain, which rendered it impossible to continue with safety the navigation of the ship and made it imperatively necessary for the *Rubi* to drop her anchor.

The plaintiffs further replied that having regard to the prevailing condition of the weather the vessel should not have been in the position she was. She ought not to have taken the course, referred to, and that in doing so she acted on her own risk. The *Rubi* was at fault in anchoring where she did.

Mr. Sharp outlined the case for plaintiffs. On the 29th August last the *Rubi* was lying at the Kowloon Dock, having her annual overhaul. At that time she was naturally without steam. Her boilers were empty and she was lying helpless. They would, of course, recollect that that was the height of the typhoon season, and up to that time the barometer had been constantly falling for three or four days. A typhoon notice had been issued by the Observatory on the two previous days, and at 7.30 on the night of the 29th the red drum was hoisted on the *Tamar* and other places. The log of the *Rubi* showed that it was observed at 10 o'clock. Later, the observatory issued a notice that the typhoon would visit the colony within twenty-four hours, and after that steamers began leaving their moorings for Stonecutter's and Kowloon Bay. Notwithstanding all this, at three o'clock in the afternoon, the *Rubi* sent for the *Robert Cook*, the most powerful tug in the harbour, and was towed, not as they might expect to a safe anchorage, but to her buoy on the Hongkong side. The barometer was still falling, and, as it appeared in the log book, at 5.50 in the afternoon the black drum was hoisted. Although the *Rubi* had at that time no steam, she did not signal to the *Robert Cook* to come and take her to a safe anchorage. The typhoon gun was fired at exactly 9.40 that night, and during the night the barometer continued to fall. Hitherto they had only barometrical warnings, signals, and notices issued by the observatory, but now the wind began to rise very seriously and at daybreak the ships continued to leave their moorings for a safe anchorage. Yet, despite all these warnings, the *Rubi* did not signal for the *Robert Cook*, which was lying with steam up, as her duty was to tow vessels to a safe anchorage. At eight o'clock in the morning the black cone and drum were hoisted. Meanwhile the wind was increasing in force, and two of the few remaining steamers were now towed to safety, but the *Rubi* did not signal for the tugboat. As appeared from the log book, work was being done that morning on her starboard main boiler, and at 11.45 a.m., when practically all the other vessels had gone, the *Rubi* at last cast off and attempted to proceed apparently to Kowloon Bay without the aid of a tug and under her own steam. At that time she had only one of her two boilers in use, and he would prove to them that she could not get more than, if as much as, half of her normal power out of one boiler. The typhoon then,

was almost at its height, and it was apparently with great difficulty that she got under weigh at all. Starting at 11.45, the *Rubi* had two minutes later her engines going at full speed, but it took her to 12.30 to get as far as the cable reserve, where she anchored under circumstances they would hear. Plaintiffs would prove that the *Rubi* ought not to have put herself in the position she did. She ought not to have delayed so long, and she ought not to have ventured on her insufficient power without the aid of a tug. In those circumstances if she had been overborne by the wind and driven into some other ship, he should submit that she was entirely to blame. The typhoon could not be called a typhoon, although it was a serious blow. On the following morning the *Rubi* raised her anchor and the plaintiffs' cable came up with it. The *Rubi* then went to Stonecutter's, where she anchored. Plaintiffs did not learn of the damage to their cable until later in the day when they had it examined and found it broken a third of the distance from the south end. Counsel then quoted from Ordinances showing that those injuring the cable were liable to a fine and to make good the damage. In conclusion, he pointed out that the matter was important to the public as well as to the plaintiffs. It was obviously necessary that communications should be maintained with the mainland, and having heard the evidence the jury would have no doubt that the damage was due to the *Rubi*'s omission to take such precautions and to exercise such foresight as were reasonable and proper in view of the weather, in view of the warnings, and in view of the *Rubi*'s own partially disabled condition.

Evidence was adduced in support of plaintiffs' claim, which was not concluded when the Court rose. (See next page.)

## IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

## THE VALUE OF A SIGNBOARD.

*Re Wing Chau Wai Kee firm ex parte Lam Hang Chun, Mr. d'Almada e Castro* (of Messrs Brutton, Hett and Goldring) appeared for the petitioning creditors. The petition, he said, stated that the firm carried on business at 22 Circular Pathway as lard dealers. They owed \$500 due on two promissory notes, the act of bankruptcy being a notice of suspension of payment of debts issued by the firm. An interim receiving order was made on the application of the creditor and granted on the ground that some of the creditors had entered the premises and started removing the goods of the debtors.

His Lordship (referring to the petition)—What does good-will mean?

Mr. d'Almada—The signboard and name.

His Lordship—A signboard is not worth much.

Mr. d'Almada—The Chinese value it. One signboard was recently sold for \$50,000.

His Lordship—Is it an emblem of good-will?

Mr. d'Almada—There was another sold for \$27,000.

The application was granted.

## CHUN LA MING ex parte LAM SHUN MAN.

Mr. H. K. Holmes, appearing for the petitioning creditor, said an arrangement had been made with the creditors, by which his client's claim had been secured and he now wished to withdraw his application.

His Lordship—Tell us something about the arrangement.

Mr. Holmes—I am not in a position to do so, my Lord.

His Lordship—That is not sufficient to withdraw it.

Mr. Dixon—I appear for one of the creditors and was not aware of this arrangement. I am sure my client would not agree to this arrangement. Would your Lordship allow it to stand over?

His Lordship—Yes. Directly you come into bankruptcy you must take your chance.

Mr. Holmes—I may say that I have seen a list signed by the Chinese creditors.

His Lordship—It must stand over. The other creditors must have an opportunity of appearing.



## IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

## BREAKING A SUBMARINE CABLE.

The hearing was resumed of the action in which the China and Japan Electric and Telephone Co., Ltd., claimed \$1,000 from the China and Manila Steamship Co., Ltd., being the amount of damage sustained by the plaintiff company by the breaking of their submarine cable in the harbour by the defendants' steamship *Rubi*.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. G. C. Bailey (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), appeared for the plaintiff company, and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. F. B. Deacon (of Messrs. Deacon Looker and Deacon), represented the defendant company.

The witnesses called yesterday were Mr. W. L. Carter, manager of the plaintiff company, who gave evidence of the damage and that the amount paid for repair was considerably more than the amount claimed; Mr. F. G. Figg of the Observatory, who spoke of the weather at the time of the occurrence; Mr. A. Webb, engineer in the employ of Messrs. M. Donald and Co., who declared he would only raise anchor in a typhoon, with half his boilers not working, under protest; and Captain Christie, who did not consider the *Rubi* should have gone to her buoy in the condition that she was, but that she should have called a tug and proceeded to a safe anchorage.

Mr. Pollock, addressing his Lordship, said that there was no evidence of negligence to be submitted to the jury, because in the first place there was no doubt the *Rubi* had dropped her anchor somewhere off North Point on August 30th at 12.30. What was substantially alleged was that she dropped her anchor on plaintiffs' cable. Assuming that she dropped her anchor inside the cable area and that as a result she broke the Company's cable, the mere fact of dropping her anchor there could not be said to be negligence. As his Lordship knew, the mere fact that damage was done either by a ship or by a horse that ran away or by anything moving which belonged to defendants did not entitle the plaintiffs to recover, and he thought plaintiffs' legal adviser had not taken the proper view when they had put in their claim the allegation of negligence. They submitted that there was no evidence of such neglect. They knew from the evidence that there certainly were gusts of wind at 12.30 on August 30th, accompanied by rain. It was true plaintiffs' witnesses were not disposed to admit there was as much density of rain as mentioned in the defendants' statement. Still they knew there were that morning overcast skies, with rain and squalls of wind. The question to be submitted to the jury was whether having regard to the circumstances the *Rubi* was negligent in dropping her anchor where she did. The plaintiffs' suggestion of what they ought to have done took them back to the afternoon of the 29th. They suggested that defendants ought to have been towed to a place of safety on that afternoon. Another allegation was that they ought to have been towed away or steamed away by daylight next morning. All this vista of possibilities was laid before them by the plaintiffs. In considering that, one was forcibly reminded of the observation which was made in the case of a horse bolting and doing damage at home. The learned judge said in the course of his judgment "Of course if you are going to take us back and back, if the horse and carriage had not left the mews, the accident would not have occurred at all."

His LORDSHIP—Well, the horse went off on its own action. A steamboat could not do that.

Mr. POLLOCK, continuing, said they might argue that if the cable had not been there it would not have been damaged by the anchor, and if the *Rubi* had not been in Hongkong, had she been in Manila, there would not have been any damage done. He submitted that a line must be drawn somewhere. Defendants would never be able to escape from the charge of negligence if his friend's arguments were upheld. He submitted that the whole question the jury had to consider was what took place between leaving the buoy

at 11.45 and when she dropped her anchor. Plaintiffs were practically trying to make defendants insurers of the safety of their cable. In conclusion, Mr. Pollock said there was no case of negligence to go to a jury and judgment should therefore be given for defendants without calling a witness for the defence.

His LORDSHIP did not agree with this view and said the jury having heard one side should hear the other.

Mr. Pollock then addressed the jury, indicating the case for the defendants. He stated there was no neglect on the part of the captain of the *Rubi* in weighing anchor in the circumstances. A curious suggestion had been made by a very positive witness the previous day, Mr. Webb, that a ship like the *Rubi* with only one of her two boilers going must be treated as partially disabled. That was most remarkable evidence, but he would be able to call evidence that the *Rubi* herself had actually gone all the way to Manila with one boiler and that an old vessel, the *Perla*, had gone both ways with one boiler. He would also be able to show the jury that considerable pressure could be kept up with only one boiler. Of course she could not go as fast with one boiler as with two, but when there was only one boiler in use a donkey engine was employed to do auxiliary work, and he would be able to show that in smooth water the difference between one boiler and two was only a few knots, something between 12½ knots and 10. Mr. Webb's argument that a ship like the *Rubi* under one boiler not being able to go more than half her ordinary speed was absurd. The *Rubi* herself going to Manila with one boiler in use had maintained an average speed of nine knots, while the *Perla* in similar circumstances had only dropped about two knots on her speed. It was absurd to say that one boiler would not give more than half speed. Knowing how horse-power was applied to steamers, they knew that if it was desired to increase a vessel's speed a knot or two above her economical speed her horse-power had to be increased enormously to get the extra knot or two. So with one boiler, as opposed to two, in smooth water and under favourable conditions the difference in a steamer's speed would only be one or two knots. Proceeding, he asked the jury to remember that the typhoon did not reach typhoon force. Captain Morrison in his evidence said he did not think much about it because he pulled up anchor and steamed away that evening. They must know from their own knowledge that the cry of wolf was raised in the colony when there was no wolf. Signals were hoisted, numerous notices issued, but nothing happened. The typhoon had been somewhere no doubt, but there had been many false alarms. It was suggested that they ought to have gone to Kowloon Bay or somewhere else before they did, but he would call evidence to show that other two steamers did not leave till after they did. When the *Rubi* set out for Kowloon Bay she experienced squalls and blinding rain which made it impossible to see 100 yards ahead. In these circumstances the Captain thought it prudent to drop anchor. Plaintiffs asked them to say that that was imprudent and that the Captain was negligent. In fact the plaintiffs almost seemed to think that the Captain ought to have thought far more of prospective damage to the cable than to look after his ship and avoid drifting or running into other ships. They seemed to think that their cable was far more important than reasonable and prudent navigation, and he thought the jury would agree with him that it was reasonable and prudent navigation to drop his anchor as he did wherever he was, even inside the area, having regard to the blinding rain. So far as the captain was concerned, he had been all along under the impression that he had dropped his anchor outside the cable area. Even if the jury came to the conclusion that the captain had dropped his anchor there, he thought from the evidence they would come to the conclusion that it was certainly not due to negligence on his part.

Evidence was then called for the defence.

Captain Noley, of the *Rubi*, bore out the statement of counsel. Referring to the pulling up of the anchor on the occasion in question, he said something came up with the anchor which was handed to him by the chief officer.

He had sailed several ships when they had only one boiler in use.

Cross-examined—When anchored at the dock buoy he was not aware that any notices of a typhoon had been issued by the Observatory; on the 29th he knew the barometer was falling but did not notice it before. Apart from having seen the signal up it had not occurred to his mind that there was a typhoon about. When he saw the signal hoisted he did not take any steps to inquire whether the Observatory had issued any notices. If he had known that a notice had been issued that a typhoon threatened to approach South China within 24 hours, he would still have gone to his buoy; he had not been told by Mr. Coddard or Mr. Gordon that that was the first great mistake he had made. It was the duty of the captain of a ship to take his vessel to a safe anchorage in case of a storm. If he neglected to do that, and the storm reached its height, he would be responsible for any damage done. When he got to the buoy the black drum was hoisted instead of the red, which indicated that a typhoon was coming; at that time his ship's boilers were empty, and he could not have got steam up for some time. It was quite possible to lie out the typhoon at his buoy, but he did not intend doing so. He did not consider it would have been more prudent, in view of all the warnings, to have sent for a tug to assist him to get away. The squall which occurred at 12.30 on the day in question was one of the things that could not be anticipated. When at Kellett Island he considered more of these squalls were likely; a second squall struck his vessel before he knew it. It was of a very blinding character, and he was heading towards the P. and O. in Kowloon Bay when it struck him. Assuming the anchor, with 105 fathoms of chain out, to be in the centre of the telephone area, that would put his ship just without the area. During the time he was anchored near the area his anchors did not drag; he knew this because the ship was sheering. Witness was certain he was anchored outside the area. The letter to the Eastern Extension Cable Co. (put in) was written by him.

He stated therein that while taking his vessel to a safe anchorage on the previous afternoon he was forced, through stress of weather, to anchor just off the cable ground. He kept steaming up all night on his anchors in case he ran foul of the cables. Next morning, when he began to heave up the anchors, he found that he had broken the cable. He thought he had taken anchor bearings just beyond the cable grounds, but during the foul weather his bearings were not reliable.

Witness did not at any time think they were in the cable ground.

W. G. Lawson said in August last he was acting as Chief Officer on the s.s. *Rubi*. He had been six and a half years on the China coast, and had had a master's certificate for twelve years. About 11.50 on the morning of the 30th August the *Rubi* left her buoy at Hunghom, and proceeded towards Kowloon Bay. On the way they struck a severe squall, and dropped the port anchor for a few minutes. When the squall cleared away they hove up, the engines were put ahead, and the *Rubi* proceeded. Then a second squall came up with very thick rain, which was coming down so severe that witness could not face it. About ten minutes after it came on the captain ordered him to let go the anchors, which he did. The ship was sheering all the time, and the engines were being kept worked slowly ahead to keep the strain off the cables. The ship did not drag at all. Witness hove short on both anchors, and then took up the starboard. Afterwards he hove up the port anchor, and found a piece of cable on it. At the time of the second squall, witness could not see ten feet ahead. Dropping the anchors in such a case was a prudent thing to do, as otherwise they might have drifted down on a steamer which was lying on their starboard quarter. Witness was previously in the *Rubi* when she had only one boiler and went from Hongkong to Manila at a speed of ten knots an hour.

Cross-examined—He could not explain how it was that the typhoon signal hoisted at 7.30 a.m. was not seen for two hours. They were all busy on the decks at the time. The telephone cable was not pulling at their anchor. It was not true that their anchor was pulled



out at the bow by the telephone cable. The piece of cable produced showed that it had been out on the one side and broken on the other. He did not feel any shock when it was brought up.

Captain Almond spoke to having sailed one of the Company's old ships to and from Manila with only one boiler in use. The average speed to Manila was 7.3 and the return journey nine knots. He had commanded the *Rubi* since she was launched at Glasgow, but he was home on leave last year.

The hearing was again adjourned.

Friday, 5th January.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

#### CLAIM FOR RENT.

Fr. Blunck, owner of Inland Lot No 3 Kowloon, sued Ng Choi, the owner of house 53 Elgin Road, for \$11.54, being ground rent, and a further \$2 for searching the Land Office records. Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for plaintiff, but defendant entered no appearance.

His Lordship, in giving judgment for plaintiff with costs, asked—How are you going to get it?

Plaintiff—Take the house, of course (laughter).

#### BREAKING A SUBMARINE CABLE.

The action in which the China and Japan Electric and Telephone Co., Ltd., claimed \$1,000 from the China and Manila Steamship Co., Ltd., being the amount of damage sustained by the plaintiff company by the breaking of their submarine cable in the harbour by the defendants' steamship *Rubi*, was resumed.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. G. C. Bailey (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), appeared for the plaintiff company, and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. F. B. Deacon (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), represented the defendant company.

John Hill, chief engineer of the *Rubi* since September 1904, said he held a first-class certificate. On one occasion, in May last year, he took the *Rubi* across to Manila with one boiler. They could do that in rough weather. They could get 10 knots with one boiler and 12½ with two. On one boiler in smooth water he could get more than half speed out of the *Rubi*. On the morning of 30th August the *Rubi* left the buoy. She had then a steam pressure of 175 with the one main boiler and had the donkey boiler working as well.

Cross-examined—When the *Rubi* was taken to Manila on one boiler it was done as an experiment. Witness was questioned at considerable length as to the entries in the log book and asked for explanations of the alteration of material times. Asked how often the anchor was dropped, witness could not return an answer.

His Lordship—But were you below?

Witness—Yes.

His Lordship—Well then, how often was the anchor dropped?

Witness—I only know it was dropped once.

His Lordship—I don't believe you were down below at all. Were you there at 12.30.

Witness—I could not say.

His Lordship—Were you there when you anchored the second time?

Witness—I didn't know we had anchored twice.

His Lordship—That is clear, because you would have stopped your engines.

Witness—Yes.

His Lordship—When did you go down next to the engine room?

Witness—I was there the greater part of the time.

His Lordship—I am talking between 12 and 1. Did you go down between 12 and 1?

Witness—Several times.

Mr. Sharp—You only know you stopped once?

Witness—Yes.

His Lordship—If you had been on deck you would have seen the ship anchored?

Witness—Yes.

His Lordship—How often were the engines stopped?

Witness—Half a dozen times, half speed and dead slow.

His Lordship—How often did you stop to anchor?

Witness's reply was inaudible.

Mr. Sharp—Would you have logged that?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Sharp—Well, you have not done so.

Captain Mottley, recalled, was questioned by his Lordship as to ships he had seen when the *Rubi* was struck by the squall and the distance they were off.

To Mr. Pollock—When the squall struck the ship he could not tell how dense it was likely to be.

His Lordship—He ought to have seen it.

Mr. Pollock—The point is this, that he could not tell how dense it was going to be. It might have been a squall that he could have seen through.

His Lordship—Oh.

James M'Donald, Government and marine surveyor, said he knew eight ships in one company with only one boiler each. A vessel like the *Rubi* would be perfectly seaworthy with one boiler in ordinary weather. On the morning of 30th August the *Rubi* left her buoy to cross to Kowloon Bay. That was not a rash or perilous act.

This concluded the evidence.

Mr. Pollock addressed the jury. He said the defendants were not prepared at the outset to admit that the cable fished up on the *Rubi's* anchor belonged to the plaintiffs, because they had no possible means of knowledge, but there could be no doubt now that it belonged to the plaintiffs. An explanation of the cable being hooked up by the anchor would doubtless be found in the fact that the *Rubi* dragged her anchors. There must have been a strain on them. The jury had to consider only two points. The first was—Whether or not it was negligent of those in charge of the *Rubi* to proceed towards Kowloon Bay from her buoy at 11.45 on the morning of the 30th August. The second point was—Whether or not it was negligent on the part of those in charge of the *Rubi* to drop her anchor where she did in the circumstances. He submitted that it was proper for the captain to anchor when and where he did. It was prudent and reasonable navigation, and he did not see how it could be twisted into an act of negligence.

His Lordship—Did you admit you dropped your anchor in the cable area?

Mr. Pollock—No, I don't know that we did.

After another remark from his Lordship, Mr. Pollock said he was prepared to admit that the cable was dropped within the cable area.

His Lordship—Then your point now is that the squall caused you to act as you did?

Mr. Pollock—Yes.

Mr. Sharp—I shall ask your Lordship to accept another point of view.

His Lordship—Just so.

Mr. Pollock resumed his address to the jury, contending that the defendants were not guilty of negligence and that the plaintiffs were not entitled to judgment.

Mr. Sharp, in his address to the jury, said he would ask them to consider the subject under the headings of the questions which he would submit to the jury. The first was—Whether the anchor was dropped in the cable reserve.

His Lordship—That is admitted.

Mr. Sharp then argued that there was negligence on the part of the defendants in not taking all precautions which would prevent the vessel being exposed to a typhoon. The *Rubi* was *prima facie* at fault for anchoring in the prohibited area, but she could be excused by act of God. But this could only be pleaded successfully if there was no means of anticipating the event. He maintained that it was neglect which caused the *Rubi* to be exposed to the squall. She was one of the last to leave the harbour, and by that time owing to her neglect, she had become liable for any damage that might be done. She was negligent in dropping anchor where she did. The *Rubi* had failed to exercise reasonable foresight and must be held liable for the damage which resulted.

His Lordship, in briefly summing up, told the jury that if they came to the conclusion that there had been a squall they must find for the plaintiffs, but if they came to the conclusion that the squall was so heavy that it was prudent for the captain to anchor where he did they would find for defendants.

The jury retired and after a few minutes returned with a verdict for plaintiffs by two to one.

Judgment was entered for plaintiffs with costs.

## 1905. A HONGKONG RETROSPECT.

### GENERAL AND CURSORY.

The year just ended may be mentioned as perhaps the most momentous of the current decade. We began it by anticipating the victory of Admiral Togo over Admiral Rozhdestvenski, the retention of Weihaiwei and the final settlement of the Tibet affair. The first we have seen realised; the second is practically assured; and about the third there seems still to hang a cloud. China has not yet confirmed our treaty; but otherwise there is no difficulty, and China so often plays the dog in the manger that it is not probable any will be allowed to rise as a consequence of this particular illustration of her stiffneckedness. The episode most prominent in the year just over was, of course, the conclusion of peace between Russia and Japan. The end of war, and the beginning of peace, in which Hongkong was as vitally interested as any other part of the world not immediately involved, are too fresh in the memory, have left too vivid an impression, to need detailed comment here.

### LOCAL.

We may pass at once to the strictly local aspects of the ended year; and here we are at once reminded of the extraordinary rise in exchange (of which more anon), the general complaints of dear house rents and increased cost of living, the shifting of the business centre nearer to the sea, and (we hope not regarded as congruous) the depression in the money market. The year opened badly if we take crime as a criterion. Within the first fortnight, we had the first triple hanging in our history, by which three young "beachcombers" paid the penalty for murdering a sampan woman under circumstances of singular brutality. This was followed almost immediately by an impudent act of piracy by Chinese within the harbour limits; and within a few days of that there was a fatal case of "amok." Cases of armed robbery were distressingly frequent throughout the year; in July there was a manslaughter case which created a temporary bad feeling between the military and civilian communities; and the Linchow massacre and the Shanghai riot, in the last two months of the year, although extraneous occurrences, added to the sum of our year's painful sensations.

### LEGISLATION.

His Excellency the Governor has not been able, as we hoped he might, to oblige us with any legislative reform in the way of the registration of servants nor the registration of Chinese partnerships, though both have been regularly mooted as desirable measures. The chief feature of the year's legislation was undoubtedly the recent Bill which gave power to raise a loan for the purpose of furthering the Kowloon-Canton Railway project; and we enter 1906 with the liveliest hopes of having more encouraging progress to report in our next retrospect. In this connection also we must not overlook the loan made by the Hongkong Government to the Wuchang Viceroy for the purpose of redeeming from the American-China Development Company the concession for the great trunk line of railway which is to connect Hankow with Canton. What high political considerations lie at the back of this novel act of the Government must be left for the future to reveal.

### THE RAILWAY OPENING OF CHINA.

The fact is that until 1905 the phrase "opening of China" was a misnomer. The currants had been picked off the cake, as it were, by the opening of coast ports; but the first incisions of the carving knife were made in the period under review, as exemplified by the formal opening of the Peking-Hankow Railway, the extension of the line from Shanghai inland, and the other manifestations of railway enterprise to which reference has just been made. The activity of Peking and the Canton Viceroy in the matter of the Kwangtung railways, as reported in our last issue for 1905, enables us to begin the next course with an appetite.



## MONEY MATTERS.

Financially, the year has been an unsatisfactory one, the Chinese residents being most "under the weather," and their stringency, coupled with war effects, the rising exchange and so on, has had a most depressing effect on the share market. The most relieving feature has been the continual enhancement in the value of the shares of our premier bank, the Hongkong and Shanghai, which began the year at \$710 and reached \$915 in August. Their subsequent decline to \$860 was due entirely, we may suppose, to the desire to transmute dollars into gold, when the unusual rise in exchange seemed to make that the only popular transaction. The closing rate of \$860 is still \$150 more than the closing rate of 1904. The benefit of this will be felt most by the shareholders at Home, who are supposed to possess fully eighty per cent. of this popular stock. The substantial rise had substantial causes, the very solid administration being an important factor, and the Bank made enormous profits from the several Japanese war loans, and the Shanghai-Nanking Railway loan. A rich corporation like this is also enabled to take greater advantage of the fluctuations in exchange by which others may be embarrassed. The "H. & S.," indeed, appears to be so firmly founded that even a cyclone of commercial crises cannot shake it. Banking generally ought to have flourished on the increasing turn-over, and we are therefore particularly sorry to note the disappearance during the past year of the local branch of the Imperial Bank of China.

## SHIPPING.

Shipping shares were a feature to which the public looked very hopefully during the year, but though charters were plenty and freights high, shareholders can scarcely be said to have been satisfied. "Indo-Chinas" rose to \$132 on the strength of the "fat" year; and the disappointment (in some cases telegraphed half way round the world) at the small improvement on "lean" year returns, is still rankling. There was an immediate slump from \$125 to \$100 in June, and they are carried into the new year at \$90.

## OF DIVIDENDS IN GENERAL.

We do not say the policy of the directors was wrong altogether; but in view of the peculiar conditions under which most stocks are held in this Colony, more consideration might be extended to those investors whose interest endures for terms of four to six years, and then ceases, without injury to posterity. After all, the most permanent investor imaginable cannot prefer the fluctuating dividends to which he is accustomed (we are not now speaking of any particular company) to returns more consistent with earnings. We will probably have to wait for England's lead for legislation on this burning question; but in the meantime, we commend to the consideration of thoughtful persons (including His Excellency the Governor and all others set in authority over us) the unhealthy possibilities underlying a wholly unfettered discretion which may hoard up money and suddenly, without warning or sufficient cause, announce a "thumping" dividend. It is not a new problem, the relation of business and speculation; but such years as 1905 bring it more forcibly before us, and so we may be excused for this apparent digression. To avoid any misunderstanding, we should say at once that the returns from shipping generally were not in accordance with what were looked for, and disappointment was not confined to any one company.

## MARINE INSURANCE.

A good shipping year spells a good insurance year, usually, and so far as we can ascertain, there is no reflex here of the unceasing grumbling on the London market. "Unions" rose from \$690 to \$710, and for them the new year opens most hopefully. "Cantons" began at \$250 and close at \$325, "Yangtszes" rose \$20, and "China Traders" progressed from \$57 to \$91, the closing rate being a *cum div.* one. Here the feature of the year has been the combination, not actually accomplished, but decided upon; a decision almost universally extolled, and an example that seems well worth the consideration of such companies as united might flourish and divided fall. Fire insurance companies have for some reason not attracted speculation, and their quotations at the end of the year are just what

they were at the beginning. Their exclusion from the field of speculation appears to have done them no harm, the happy investors in "Hongkong Fires" drawing eleven per cent, and "China Fires" eight and a quarter.

## SUGAR.

A serious drop in prices was experienced at the beginning of the year, but now the market is becoming steadier, and prospects are regarded as bright. Local refineries did well during the year, "China Sugar" and Taikoo (a private concern) distinguishing themselves. Hongkong people are very largely interested in "China Sugars," and are hoping for a repetition of the handsome returns of 1904. The shares touched \$246 during the year, when there was perhaps too much speculation; and the closing drop to \$207 is due to reports of the big continental beet crop, to the cheapness of raw sugar and Java sugar, and, of course, partly to the general depression. This serious decline has discomfited several holders who had bought on time. "Luzons" fluctuated from \$15 to \$31 owing to rumours that the property was to be sold, and once they got down to \$14. They close at \$24.

## MINES.

Very little interest was taken in these things, and with the exception of Chinese Engineering and Mining Co.'s stock, things are as they were at the end of 1904. "C.E.M.'s," having produced an attractive dividend, start the new year at Tls. 8.70.

## WHARVES AND GODOWNS.

The Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co. has had an exceedingly busy year, and must have earned handsome profits. The shares, however, appreciated only four dollars in the twelve-month, due no doubt to the policy of spending largely on improvements out of revenue, a policy good for posterity, but not appreciated by the average Hongkong investor. Say a merchant buys 200 of these shares with spare capital: he is satisfied with his five per cent and the safety due to the spending of three or four per cent on his asset. In two or three years, however, as in 1905, there comes a tight year and high exchange; and he needs the capital. He sells out, and leaves others to reap the benefit of those improvements.

## A BAD YEAR FOR DOCKS.

"Docks" have been a sore point with investors and dealers. "George Fenwicks" started at \$45 and closed at \$35; "Hongkong and Whampoa" started at \$216 and closed at \$164; "Farnhams" started at Tls. 153 and closed at Tls. 125; and "New Amoy" started at \$27 and closed at \$17. Thus a man who chose Far Eastern docks in 1905 as an investment would begin again this year with about three fourths of his original capital. The war is blamed for the bad business, steamers taken off the regular lines to serve as transports and so on. Increasing competition lowering prices without a corresponding drop in expenses probably has a good deal to do with it. The Hongkong docks suffered disappointment during the year at the failure to raise the wrecked French cruiser *Sully*. It must appear singular that with Hongkong enjoying the reputation of being the world's leading shipping port, with over nineteen million tons of shipping passing through, our docks should have to complain of scarcity of employment. It is a mercy, in view of this strange development, that the proposals of two years ago, to build more large docks here, were defeated. Of course we look forward still to a time when the present docks will not be able to cope with all the work offering; but such optimism was impossible in 1905. What we cultivated then was patience.

## LAND.

The year 1905 was marked by a curious shrinkage of land values, property declining in cases as much as twenty and twenty-five per cent. This was due, no doubt, to the financial stringency and the absence of speculators. As a result, "Hongkong Lands" retrogressed from \$147 to \$124; but "Humphrey's Estates" held their own, ending the year as they began, at \$12.50. An appreciation of \$2.50 in eighteen years, however, is nothing to boast of; and now that combinations are in the air, we wonder if a merger of land investment companies might not brighten things for 1906.

## INDUSTRIES.

Our local cement works ("Green Island") have had a good year, and owing to increasing business, had to venture on a new issue of one for every two old shares. This made the average market value \$2.64; and the closing rate (a steady one) is given at \$2.84. The Hongkong Cotton Mill made a splendid showing during the year, paying ten per cent. on the reduced capital, and the shares closed at rates only a trifle higher than they opened. In view of the general boom in cotton, the prosperity at Shanghai, in India and Japan, those who hold original \$100 shares complain that they have a right to expect a little better return than the actual one per cent.; and are hoping that the management will make strenuous efforts to keep in the van of progress. During the year, all other stocks practically held their own, with some insignificant retrogressions; and while more "hustle" and enterprise is undoubtedly called for, the consensus of opinion is that local business is weathering a crisis with comparative credit.

## GENERAL RETURNS.

Below we give sundry returns under various headings, which have been compiled and collected at rather short notice. Supplementary figures will be given as they come in.

## EXCHANGE.

The year opened with a T.T. rate of 1/11-3-16, which gradually advanced until 2/0-1-16 was reached late in January, before the Chinese New Year. After that festival, with its very disastrous settlement by the Chinese of their liabilities, rates fell away until the lowest point of 1/9½ was reached on 10th April. Rates held their own after that, moving quietly between 1/10 and 1/11 until August. A prevalent opinion that rates would fall as soon as the war was over was entirely disproved by events subsequent to the peace of August. Exchange continued to be steadily firm and for the mail of 22nd August the T. T. rate advanced to 1/11½ and it has not been below 1/11 since. In November a sharp rise occurred owing to demands for silver both by Russia and India, and also for the redemption of the war notes in Manchuria by Japan. Rates advanced to over 2/1 early in November and before the end of that month had touched 30½ pence per oz., a price which has not been equalled during five years, and the T. T. advanced to 2/1½ where it remained for three days. With slight fluctuation, it went back during the first half of December to 2/0½, although the price of silver advanced until it touched 30 5/16d. per oz. For a similar high price of silver, we have to go back to 1896. The year closes with a firmish market at 2/-9-16 T.T. Silver has slightly weakened and closes at 29/-15-16, and while not posing as prophets, we think there is every prospect of the dollar remaining in the region of 2/- for some time to come. In this connection it is interesting to note the different opinion held in two neighbouring colonies. In Hongkong there appears to be a strong predilection in favour of low exchange, but opinion in Singapore seems to be concentrated in favour of a high exchange.

## YARN.

The trade of last year on the whole may be said to have been a brisk one and more profitable to importers than previous years. This is accounted for by the small stocks which were available at the commencement of the year, cheap raw material and bumper crops of food-stuffs. It was not as remunerative to the native dealers, as the violent fluctuations in exchange and the recent tightness of the money market had an adverse effect, and some severe losses had to be faced. The year closed with an unusually heavy stock and a slack market.

## PIECE GOODS.

Cotton had a phenomenal rise during late months which has tended to make business difficult. Without that rise there would have been more disastrous results to the Chinese than they have yet experienced. It helped to steady prices.

## COTTON.

Importers have not done badly during the past year, for though values here have not responded to the enhanced cost in Bombay, the steadiness of silver and rise in exchange have more than covered the loss in prices. Chinese dealers did not however fare so well. Imports



to Hongkong during 1905 amounted to 338,696 bales as against 212,605 in 1904, an increase of 50 per cent. Sales, on the other hand, have not been so brisk.

## SILK.

The Canton silk this year shows a deficiency of 10 to 20 per cent, having suffered from Japanese competition. In addition to the short crop the Chinese have lost heavily through the rise in exchange, being able to buy less for the dollar; while the Japanese have had the advantage of a fixed basis. Trade has also been bad in America which is one of the principal outlets for Canton silk.

## TEA.

The Canton tea business shows a further diminution in export and is gradually becoming a thing of the past.

## METALS.

In this department also the trade during the year was very slack. Dealers have only had a hand to mouth business, partly on account of the disturbed financial condition and partly because of the Home markets steadily rising, in consequence of which local dealers hesitated to speculate. Still local markets have followed Home markets very closely.

## OPIUM.

*Bengal Opium.*—Taking it all round the trade has not been lucrative. Heavy stocks and fluctuations have acted against all interests. The Indian Government sold during the year 48,000 chests, and next year the quantity to be sold has been increased by 400 chests per month.

*Malwa Opium.*—During the early part of the year the trade was satisfactory but as prices advanced the consumption fell off owing to competition with the cheaper Bengal Opium.

*Persian.*—Owing to short supplies there has been considerable advance in values, with the result that it appears to have fallen into disuse.

## FLOUR.

There was a big falling off in flour this year, the boycott and the financial state of China contributing to this result. About 3,400,000 sacks of American flour were imported into Hongkong last year as against 4,645,000 in 1904 and 5,511,000 in 1903. There has however been a fair importation from Australia. Flour is moving very slowly here, and in French China the boycott is making itself felt in this commodity.

## KEROSENE.

The trade here has shown no development. What business has been lost by America on account of the boycott has been transacted by others, but there has been no increase nor decrease. The Standard Oil figures for the year are expected about the middle of the month.

## LUBRICANTS.

1905 has been a prosperous year for the Vacuum Oil Company, who now that Hongkong has become the first port in the world, have decided to establish their head office here, removing it from Singapore.

## SUNDRIES.

This trade, in the hands of small dealers, suffered more than the others from the tightness of money, the small dealers not having the facilities for buying.

## TONNAGE.

Business during the year has been fairly slack except for demands created by the war. Freights at home are good at present, and it is expected that a number of ships will leave the coasts. Already three small German ships have gone and five Norwegians have left or are going. Now that the war is over and the transport business likely to be finished by April or May, all the steamers taken by the Japanese on time charter will be returning, and competition is likely to be keener than ever.

The rice crop in Saigon was poor last year, and the exports to Hongkong from April 1st to November 17th only amounted to 584,600 piculs. To the Philippines there were exported 2,355,200 piculs during 1905 and 2,807,000 in 1904. To Japan the amount exported in 1905 was 1,161,500 in 1905 and 1,315,000 in 1904. The exports to Java in 1905 amounted to 498,800 as against 631,100 piculs the previous year. The total export from Saigon in 1905 was 6,508,600 piculs, as against 11,167,000 the year before, a material reduction.

It was reported that the new crop at Saigon was particularly good, but according to latest

advice, owing to the lack of rain, it is not expected to turn out so well as was at first anticipated. Japan, where there has been a rice famine, will have to import a lot of rice. Already about 70,000 tons of Rangoon rice have been sold for shipment to Japan during the months of February, March and April, and about 50,000 tons of Saigon rice have been purchased for shipment during the same period.

The average rate ruling from South Japan coal ports to Hongkong has been \$1.50/1.60, and to Singapore \$1.60. From Saigon to Hongkong the highest rate was 17 cents and the lowest 8 cents; from Saigon to Java, highest 33 cents, lowest 24 cents; Saigon to Philippines, highest 55 cents, lowest 24 cents. Java to Hongkong—wet sugar, highest 35 cents, lowest 25 cents; dry sugar highest 24 cents, lowest 22 cents.

Owing to the great demand for coal in Japan with its attendant raising of prices, steamship agents have had to make contracts for supplies from India and Australia.

## HONGKONG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The newly-formed Hongkong Horticultural Society advanced another stage in its progress towards complete organisation on the 3rd January when Sir Francis Piggott, president, presided over a good attendance in the City Hall. The following were appointed a committee: Miss Bowley, Mrs. Dickson, Mrs. L. A. M. Johnston, Mrs. Seth, Mr. Barton (chairman), Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Dunn (hon. secy.). This committee does not undertake the management of the forthcoming show, this being left to the original body, which became a sub-committee. Regulations for the forthcoming exhibition were drawn up, it being agreed that the price of admission on the first day should be \$1 and on the second day up to 3 o'clock, 50 cents, after that hour, free. Subscribers to Sir Paul Chater's list were to be made members of the society and to be admitted to the show free. Mr. L. Gibbs was elected secretary and treasurer. The committee which had arranged for the Flower Show submitted a lengthy report, in which it was stated that Sir Paul Chater had promised \$2,000 towards the prize fund. Sir Francis Piggott remarked that he hoped the membership of the society would reach 100. When the meeting opened there were 17 members on the list and several additions were made at the close. The Chairman also took occasion to refer to a mistaken impression that the annual subscription was \$25. As a matter of fact it was only \$5.

## THE "MEX." IN CHINA.

## A TYPICAL CURRENCY INCIDENT.

Mr. Edward S. Little, of Shanghai, recently travelled by train from Hankow to Peking. While in the former place he secured a supply of coin for the journey and was given dollars turned out of the Government Mint at Wuchang. He tendered these coins to the Government Railways both in Tientsin and Peking in payment for tickets. In both cases they were rejected. The clerks explained that the coins were "outside the province," and could not therefore be accepted. Mr. Little then successfully tendered Mexicans and called their attention to the fact that these were not only "outside the province" but "outside the Empire" coins. The Chinese assistants at once saw the folly and inconsistency of the situation but stuck to the Mexicans.

"This incident, he very justly remarks," will illustrate the muddle existing in the coinage system or lack of system existing in this country. The British treaty provided for the elimination of this evil, but like the rest of the treaty it is largely a dead letter. The coinage of the Empire is in greater confusion to-day than when the treaty was signed. Things have gone from bad to worse and a critical condition is in sight unless strong hands are laid on the manufacture of metal discs which are euphoniously called coins."

## CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

28th December.

## PEKING ANXIOUS FOR RAILWAYS.

The Board of Commerce in Peking has twice cabled to Viceroy Shum urging him to proceed without delay, to construct the Kwangtung-Fokien and the Kwangtung-Kiangsi railways. His Excellency has communicated the matter to Chan Pat Sze, the Minister of Railways, who has replied by cablegram that he is about to succeed in raising the necessary capital for the Kwangtung-Fokien railway, but that as regards the other line, a separate scheme should be devised to raise the necessary capital.

## AN ANTI-FOREIGN VICEROY.

Viceroy Shum having been informed that go-ahead modern officials have lately been engaging the services of foreigners as teachers, instructors, constructors, etc., etc., on their own initiative without reference to the Provincial authorities, has instructed the Provincial Treasurer to issue the following orders to his subordinates throughout the Province:—

"All prefects, sub-prefects and magistrates of the different districts are requested to notify the Viceroy in future of their intention of engaging the service of a foreigner or foreigners under agreement, and to submit such agreement for the Viceroy's approval. The same rule shall apply to officials purchasing machinery, etc., from foreigners by contract. The indiscriminate employment of foreigners under the present conditions is liable to create international difficulties and no end of trouble. The officials, civil and military, who have already entered into contracts with foreigners are requested to send particulars and a copy of the agreement made so that they may be investigated and placed on record."

## CINEMATOGRAPH SHOWS.

Formerly some Europeans came to Canton exhibiting Cinematograph views and reaped handsome profits. The Japanese followed suit and gave similar shows in the City. It came to the knowledge of the authorities, and the Japanese, being interfered with, requested their Consul to apply to the Viceroy for protection which was strictly in accordance with treaty rights. The Viceroy refused, however, and the show was stopped. It is now reported that the Italian Consul has applied to Viceroy Shum for protection on behalf of an Italian subject who has established a Cinematograph show in the Lap Ancestral Temple. We do not know whether Viceroy Shum has granted protection and permission to perform or not. [Shing-pò]

It appears from the above that shows opened without permission are not interfered with. Europeans who do the right thing and are demanding protection to which they are entitled are refused both permission and protection. This is another example of Chinese topsy-turvy administration, and we cannot but sympathise with the unfortunate foreigner who is made to suffer loss by complying with treaty obligations, which the Chinese on their side are constantly trying to evade.

## THE NEW MINISTER TO ITALY.

His Excellency Huang Kao, Hanlin, late Head Chinese Master of the Canton Imperial College, who was recently appointed Chinese Minister to Italy has arrived in Canton. His Excellency is a bannerman and a native of Canton. Minister Huang is paying the usual official calls here and will leave Canton for Rome in about three weeks. His Excellency will be accompanied by Tartar-General Thao's eldest son.

January 1st.

## THE KWANGTUNG HIGH COLLEGE.

Viceroy Shum proposed some time ago to establish a high school in Canton for the training of instructors for the lower Military and Civil Colleges. The site selected is the old examination hall. He decided to use the funds raised through the disposal of the Temple of Longevity, but fearing that the proceeds will be insufficient, has now started a subscription to raise the necessary funds. It is reported that Messrs Shewan, Tomes & Co. have subscribed \$1,000.



## POLICE REFORM.

The Viceroy has received a despatch from the Board of Police in Peking requesting the Viceroy to furnish a census of all the districts that are policed under the new system, with full particulars regarding the number of inhabitants and their occupations. The Viceroy has issued despatches instructing the responsible authorities to furnish full details within two months.

## CHINESE SPORTS

The Educational department has notified all the Civil and Military Schools and Colleges that sports have been arranged to take place on the 16th and 17th of this month at East Gate parade ground. There are 20 events on the programme and numerous prizes will be distributed to the successful competitors. The sports will be patronised by the high officials.

## COVETOUS CHINESE OFFICIALS.

The Viceroy is very disappointed; he had intended to appropriate the funds realized through the sale of Chau Tung-sang's properties for public and other works in Kwangtung. The Board of Revenue has decided otherwise, however, and the funds are to be remitted to Peking. It appears that the Throne has refused Viceroy Shum's request to utilize the funds locally, at the instigation of Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, who memorialized the Throne on the subject. Viceroy Chang stated that when he was in Kwangtung he fined Chau Tung-sang Tls. 200,000, and that the money had [not] been forwarded to Peking. The funds embezzled belonging to the Customs revenue, should be handed to the Throne. The Minister of War, on the other hand, has asked that the funds raised through the sale of the properties seized should be placed in the coffers of the Army Reform Fund. His Excellency, greatly annoyed, has now decided to raise funds by other means and has once more turned his eyes and open hands towards the different monopolists. Thus the Sai Kuan Fantan farm has been requested to pay an additional Tls. 100,000 and the Shan Piu lottery concern Tls. 500,000. The former was only recently made to pay an additional Tls. 150,000, and the latter was advised to lend Tls. 1,000,000 to the Government a short time ago; and to increase the royalty under threat of losing the farm.

The Shan-Piu lottery farmer, being a wealthy man, has been the object of the Viceroy's special attention. He has deposited a sum of Tls. 1,000,000 as a guarantee, and finds himself in a nasty corner, as that amount is liable to be seized at any time. This farmer owns fourteen banks here and three banks in Hongkong, and a general panic will be the result should he come to grief.

## CHINESE STUDENTS IN JAPAN.

A letter has been received here by a member of the gentry from Japan giving full particulars concerning the students' strike in Japan. The scholars are highly indignant to see their liberty restricted by the new regulations and have made up their minds to return to China. It appears that two scholars surnamed Wu and Wang have been trying to influence their schoolmates, advising them to submit to the new order of things. They made speeches and raised the students' anger to such a pitch that their assassination was planned by the more hot-headed lot, and they only escaped through timely warning. They are now in hiding in the interior.

January 3rd.

The year that has just closed has been from the political, economical, and financial points of view as momentous as any in the annals of the City of Rams. It has seen the end of the troublesome Kwangsi rebellion and the restoration of order in that turbulent province. Important works have been undertaken, amongst which the removal of the obstructive barriers and other dangers to navigation on the Canton River, and the extensive reclamation works carried on both by the Government and private concerns rank amongst the most useful from the public point of view. Canton city has undergone a remarkable change within the past year. The introduction of foreign caps and uniforms through the influence of the Japanese; and the tendency acquired by landlords to build semi-foreign style houses are fast transforming the general aspect of the

remarkable town. The city is slowly losing its pure native colour and one only hopes that its evil smells will soon be lost too. From the administrative point of view, useful reforms have been introduced, amongst the most efficient of which the new police system takes first rank. The furtherance of educational matters and an attempt at sanitation are also marked features amongst recent innovations.

## MONEY.

Financially, the year has been a disastrous one indeed. Increased taxation demanded by the Viceroy's constant appeal for funds has depressed trade generally. The tottering banks and hongs that withstood the crisis last year are disappearing one after the other, and signs are not wanting that the coming Chinese New Year will see the end of many more. It is rumoured that half of the native silk hongs will fail at the end of the year, and there is very little prospect of things improving in the near future. The crops have not been good and the prevailing high exchange has dealt the weaker establishments the mortal blow. The provincial coffers are empty and the Viceroy is at his wits end to make ends meet. Loan after loan has been raised, but this policy of filling a hole by digging a bigger one alongside cannot last for ever. The provincial credit is not unlimited. Nor can the various monopolists be expected to submit to further official exactions. The public lemon has been squeezed to its utmost and will not yield a single drop more. Any further appeal to the public is doomed to failure. The last loan was a total fiasco in spite of the "guarantees" offered.

## POLITICS.

From the political point of view, the year is a record one. Official obstruction to anything foreign has been the dominant feature of the year under review. The Viceroy is one of the most ardent exponents of the motto, "China for the Chinese," and but for his extraordinary severity, would undoubtedly be a very popular man. It is a well-known fact that his relations with the representatives of the different Powers here have been far from cordial. Sickness is a dodge often resorted to by officials who desire to evade discussions on matters annoying (from the Chinese point of view), and in this respect our present Viceroy is a past-master in the art, as he has succeeded in keeping foreign visitors away from his yamen for the last eight months.

## A PESSIMISTIC OUTLOOK.

Signs are not wanting that the awakening of China has commenced, at any rate at this end of the Empire. The Japanese, who benefited for a time through the prestige they gained by their victory, and who had so carefully sown the patriotic and anti-foreign winds, are the first to feel the storm. Students are leaving Japan and the instructors here, I understand, are thoroughly disgusted. Meanwhile, drilling goes on everywhere and the much-despised yellow-peril may eventually turn out to be something more than a bogie. The boycott is as active as ever and the day is perhaps not far distant when a general boycott against the rest of the world will be the order of the day.

January 4th.

## THE VICEROY.

Viceroy Shum's sick-leave has expired and His Excellency has now reported to the Throne that his health has gradually improved and that he is well again. The Viceroy has asked the Throne to grant him leave to proceed to Peking for an audience.

## ALLEGED SALT SMUGGLING FROM MACAO.

Viceroy Shum has received a cable from the Canton Government instructing him to try and settle amicably with the Portuguese Government, the recent salt smuggling case in which Lo-Wa-Fu, alias Lo-Kau, a Portuguese subject, was implicated.

The Viceroy has replied by wire informing the Central Government that the investigation has disclosed the fact that the cargo of the *Man-Fu* junk was Chinese salt and not Hongkong salt as contended; that moreover, Sam-kok-to, where the junk passed, was in Chinese waters and that the guard boats there when searching the junk found it to be fully loaded with salt. The Viceroy further states that "had the junk carried arms instead of salt

the seizure would have been considered legal. Why then differentiate? It has further been discovered that the junk was simultaneously flying the flags of two different nations, viz. the Portuguese and French flags. Can a man belong to two nations? No foreign Power would recognize such a thing, nor can China do so. If this case is minimized in any way it will be very difficult in the future to guard against salt smuggling. The Portuguese Minister says there are different excellent methods to prevent people from Macao smuggling salt into Chinese territory. Let him then make his suggestions through the Consul General here and then, and then only, I shall condescend to deal leniently with this case." The Portuguese contend that the salt was on its way from Hongkong to Macao, that the junk was only crossing Chinese waters, and that it did not make for any harbour under Chinese jurisdiction, consequently that no treaty rights had been infringed and that there was no smuggling.

## THE CANTON COMMERCIAL GAZETTE.

The President and Vice-president of the Board of Commerce some time ago memorialized Viceroy Shum with reference to the establishment of a commercial press and enclosed a copy of the regulations drawn up for his approval and also asked that the district officials may be instructed to exhort the merchants of their locality to subscribe to this new publication and give the venture their support. The Viceroy has sanctioned the rules and has issued orders accordingly. This paper will be started shortly and will report on all commercial matters of public interest.

## THE MIDDLEMAN'S REVENGE.

A certain wealthy Chinaman surnamed Ng instructed a matchmaker to find him a pretty girl as a concubine. The middleman was promised \$1,000 reward if his choice were satisfactory. The matchmaker introduced Ng to a very handsome maid a few days ago and the would-be husband expressed entire satisfaction, but paid only \$300 to the discoverer of his belle. Perhaps on second thoughts he found the maiden representing only 30 per cent. of his ideal! On the 31st, Ng sent a grand chair to bring his new concubine to his home. The chair arrived; but lo! on opening the curtains, the amorous Ng looked into the mischievous eyes of an ugly old amah who had been discharged from his service some time ago! The neighbours are still laughing over Ng's discomfiture, and think he was very neatly punished for his meanness.

## STILL ANOTHER NEWSPAPER.

The editor of the *Sze-Man-Po* states that the newspaper business is steadily increasing, there being a great demand for them at present the number of subscribers is growing more numerous every day and the different papers are making handsome profits. It is now reported that a member of the Viceroy's foreign office is about to start a new press under the style of the *Tung-Yuet-Po*. The first issue will appear after the Chinese New Year.

## PIRACY.

Piracy is rife in the neighbourhood of Ching-yuen. A likin station has recently been robbed by a band of over a hundred pirates and in the scuffle that ensued several braves and likin officials were shot.

## MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

January 8.

## SANTA CASA DA MISERICORDIA.

The rumour current last week that the Government is going to appoint a committee to take charge of the affairs of this institution turns out to be correct. The confirmation came by last mail and the order was published in the *Diario do Governo*. The Government will appoint three nominees, while the members will have the right of nominating two to the committee; in one word, the institution will be turned into a government institution. It is not yet known what remuneration the three government protégés will receive, but I believe they will draw handsome sums yearly.

## MYSTERIOUS HOUSES.

There are at present in various parts of this city some houses, which cannot be termed



either boarding houses, hotels, schools or military barracks; still I find that they are crowded with men, sometimes dressed in Chinese and another time in semi-European style. I would draw the attention of the Government to the sanitary conditions of these houses, for it is a well-known fact that wherever a large number of Chinese congregate, cleanliness is not regarded. It is best that these places should be looked after now when plague and other diseases are not rife, lest they prove to be hot-beds of plague when the spring comes round.

#### MONEY ORDERS.

From yesterday the Post Office here began to issue money orders on Hongkong; and vice-versa. The largest sum that can be remitted at one time is \$400, and the commission is one per cent.

#### THE WEATHER.

The weather is now beautifully fine, cold and dry, and there are many shooting parties round about the neighbouring villages.

### MR. OLIVER BAINBRIDGE IN HONGKONG.

Tracing the lost tribes of Israel has been a favourite study of many for a long time, but while not actually engaged in that work, Mr. Oliver Bainbridge, who has attained a reputation as an author and traveller, has thrown a flood of light on that interesting subject not only by his discovery of Jews in Papua, but by the investigations he has made in the interior of China relative to the Chinese Jews and also with regard to traits of Hebraic presence in Japan. To a *Daily Press* representative yesterday, the explorer was at home and outlined his discoveries. At Kaifeng, the ancient capital of the Middle Kingdom—where it is interesting to note the Dowager Empress spent the two months during the occupation of Peking by the foreign Powers—he found about eight families who admitted they were Jews and several others who belonged to the same race but who for various reasons did not proclaim their origin. The latter merged with the surrounding sects, Mahomedan or Confucian, but though the others were queues and adopted Chinese custom they worshipped in secret the God of Israel. The photographs of these people were particularly interesting, especially as several faces showed distinct Jewish characteristics, but equally interesting was the rubbings which the explorer showed of several wonderful stones. The inscription on one of these told the history of the coming of the Jews. The first contingent reached the country 700 B.C., and a long interval elapsed before the next Jewish immigration. In 960 A.D. a missionary named Li, accompanied by 70 families arrived, and presented the Emperor with a lot of Western clothing. Then they became subject to Chinese control. In 1368 the Cenabites, as they were called, were given a piece of land on which to build their synagogue in recognition of their teaching the people to do good, but this building was overwhelmed afterwards by the rising of the Yellow River. Another interesting feature is that Mr. Bainbridge has been made the medium of carrying a petition from the Chinese Jewish community to Dr. Adler, the Chief Rabbi, for assistance to rebuild their synagogue. In Japan he found many things which could only be explained by some Jewish origin, such as the representation in a palace at Kiote of Solomon receiving the Queen of Sheba, and Solomon returning gifts; the fact that the Mikado traces his descent from a dragon which is called Osse or Oshi, a name which is given in the old version of the Bible to the last king of Israel. Numerous other traits common to the Jews were also discovered but most remarkable of all is Mr. Bainbridge's assertion that he can trace an Irish element among the Japanese. He has collected a vast amount of information which will be embodied in two books—one on the black Jews and the other on the yellow Jews. Leaving here on Wednesday, the well-known explorer will proceed to India in order to study the Jews there.

## COMPANIES.

### UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of this society was held at its registered office, No. 1 Queen's Buildings, on the 4th January, when the resolution previously published, which was passed at the extraordinary general meeting of the Company held on 20th December, 1905, was submitted for confirmation as a special resolution. The shareholders present were:—Messrs. H. W. Slade (chairman), A. G. Wood, N. A. Siebs, G. H. Medhurst and A. Forbes (directors), W. J. Saunders (secretary), F. P. Hett, A. B. Rouse, C. M. G. Burnie, H. M. H. Nemazee, H. J. M. Carvalho, A. V. Apcar, J. A. Carvalho and F. D. Goddard.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the confirmation of the resolution, said:—

Gentlemen, the object of this meeting is to submit for confirmation as a special resolution the resolution which you have just heard read, and which was passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting held here on 20th December, 1905. I propose that this resolution be confirmed.

Mr. F. P. HETT seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—The resolution is duly confirmed. I thank you for your attendance, gentlemen. The society is now in a position to deal with the shares of the China Traders' Insurance Company in accordance with the terms of the society's offer.

### THE "SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co., the general agents for Hongkong and China, kindly supply us with the full profit, and statement of accounts to 31st December, 1904. It says:—The Asiatic Petroleum Co.'s accounts for the same period have just been received. The differences between the actual results and the estimated ones for 1903 are now adjusted in the company's books.

Including the amount brought forward from 1903, there stands to the credit of profit and loss £524,075 7s. 1d.

After deduction of Management Expenses (including Office Rent, Salaries and Expenses), and Directors' and Auditors' Fees, £22,150, Income Tax, £8,064 0s. 11d.; the sum of £103,021 19s. 11d. as a provision for Depreciation on Steamers, installations, &c., writing £10,000 from the Cost and Expenses of Preference Share Issue, and writing £3,713 3s. 5d. from American expenses, the balance of profit and loss to be carried forward to the balance sheet is £257,815 17s.

After providing for the preference dividend and for the dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent. per annum paid on the 1st January of this year (which together absorbed £150,000), there remains to be carried forward the sum of £107,815 17s.

The Chairman and Directors regret the cost of establishing their foothold on the European markets owing to the ruthless competition they have had to meet, but have thereby secured a position which should have substantial results in the future.

The accounts of the Nederlandsch-Indische Industrie en Handel Maatschappij are now in order, and the Balance-Sheet as rendered to the shareholders is certified by Messrs. Turquand, Youngs & Co.

The production of the Borneo Fields continues most satisfactory. Shipments to date this year, as compared with the similar periods of 1904 and 1903, are approximately as follows:—

	1905.	1904.	1903.
Kerosene ...	106,501	59,243	12,583
Liquid Fuel ...	125,811	113,721	91,831
Benzine, Crude Oil and Sundries ...	34,599	16,629	817

The weekly production of kerosene for the last 5 weeks has averaged 3,989 tons per week.

The Chairman and directors record with deep regret the deaths, in November, of their valued colleagues Mr. Isaac Henderson and Mr. A. Runge.

Mr. Philip Arnhold resigned his directorship on the 3rd October, owing to his proceeding on a prolonged visit to the Far East; and the Board have appointed Mr. Harry Edward Arnhold to fill the vacancy.

The retiring directors, Mr. S. Samuel, Mr. W. F. Mitchell and Mr. R. J. Black (all of whom being eligible) offer themselves for re-election. The appointment of Mr. H. E. Arnhold also requires confirmation.

The Auditors, Messrs. Turquand, Youngs & Co., retire under Art. 100 of the articles of association, and are eligible for re-election.

#### PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1904.

To management (covering office rent, salaries and expenses), directors' and auditors' fees ...	£22,150 0 0
To balance of income tax (years 1903 and 1904) ...	8,064 0 11
To provision for depreciation of steamers, with £20,000 in respect of installations, &c., and £950 15s. 6d. of special extensions ...	103,021 19 11
To amount written off, costs and expenses of the issue of preference shares ...	10,000 0 0
To amount written off, American expenses ...	3,713 3 5
To costs of working European oil business, including provision for results of the trading to 30th April, 1905 ...	112,685 5 10
To London Oil Development Co. (cost of investment written off) ...	6,625 0 0
To balance carried to balance sheet ...	257,815 17 0
	£524,075 7 1

Cr.	
By balance from year 1903 (£158,852 18s. 9d., less dividend paid 1st Jan., 1904, £100,000) ...	£ 58,852 18 9
By net profits for the year 1904, including chartered and other freights, rents of installations, interest and dividends receivable from the Nederlandsch-Indische Company, the P. P. A. G., and the Asiatic Petroleum Company, also further profits from the last named on account of the year 1903 previously estimated ...	465,222 8 4
	£524,075 7 1

#### BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1904.

LIABILITIES.	
To Capital Authorised and Paid up:—	
100,000 Preference Shares of £10 each ...	1,000,000 0 0
2,000,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each ...	2,000,000 0 0
	3,000,000 0 0
To Creditors:—	
Bills payable ...	34,656 10 10
On Current Accounts ...	183,906 3 4
Unmatured Liabilities and Charges upon Steamers and Installations, &c. ...	607,583 14 10
	826,146 9 0
To drafts current against shipments ...	27,241 11 10
To Dividend accrued to date on Preference Shares (payable 1st April, 1905) ...	12,500 0 0
To Insurance fund ...	4,144 14 5
To reserve fund:—	
Amount as shown in balance sheet at 31st December 1903 ...	400,000 0 0



To profit and loss account:—  
 Balance per statement above ... 257,815 17 0  
 Deduct preference share dividend for one year to 31st Dec., 1901 ... 50,000 0 0

207,815 17 0

## APPROPRIATION.

Dividend on ordinary shares paid 1st Jan., 1905 ... 100,000 0 0  
 Carried forward 107,815 17 0

£207,815 17 0

£4,477,848 12 3

## ASSETS.

By property of the Company, viz.:—Steamships, freeholds, buildings, wharves, storage works, plant and installations, &c.

Amount as per balance sheet at 31st Dec., 1901 ... £3,048,623 11 0

Deduct proceeds of sales of installations less expenditure in 1904 on extension of installations and on steamers ... 33,104 9 6

£3,015,519 1 6

Deduct provision for depreciation of steamers and in respect of installations, &c., viz.:—

Amount at 31st Dec., 1903 ... 394,320 11 1

Amount added this year ... 102,071 4 5

Amount added this year a/c Special Extension ... 950 15 6

£497,342 11 0

2,518,176 10 6

By advances to the Nederlandsch Indische Industrie en Handel Maatschappij, represented by an "Under-taking" to issue 5 per cent. bonds ... 840,000 0 0

By Debtors on Current account (including certified estimates of amounts recoverable under Marine Policies) ... 57,786 5 4

By account with Asiatic Petroleum Co., Ltd. ... 173,893 4 0

By account with the Nederlandsch Indische Industrie en Handel Maatschappij ... 69,772 11 10

By unexpired marine insurance premiums and balances in respect of pending voyages ... 44,460 16 2

By stocks of petroleum oil and liquid fuel afloat and in store at cost, freight, and insurance ... 31,363 15 8

By sundry stocks ... 7,893 8 8

By balance of cost and expenses of the issue of preference shares (less £30,000 written off to this date) ... 29,109 18 1

By balance of American expenses as per balance sheet of 1903 ... 7,085 19 7

Add expenditure in 1904 ... 627 3 10

7,713 3 5

Less written off this year to profit and loss account ... 3,713 3 5

4,000 0 0

By shares in the Petroleum Products Actien Gesellschaft (marks 3,000,000) at cost ... 161,025 14 2  
 By shares in the Nederlandsche Indische Industrie en Handel Maatschappij (Fl. 2,000,000 nominal being the capital of the Company) at cost ... 183,622 3 5  
 By shares in the Asiatic Petroleum Company, Limited, at cost ... 20,000 0 0  
 By bills receivable in hand ... 24,872 18 4  
 By cash at bankers ... 131,871 16 1

£4,477,848 12 3

## A PERILOUS TOW FROM MANILA.

The *Manila Times* under a seven-line heading describes how the steamers *Taming* and the disabled steamer *Kaifong* had a narrow escape and "barely made Hongkong after a perilous trip." The reference is to the towing of the *Kaifong* from Mariveles by the *Taming* just before Christmas. "The safe arrival of the *Kaifong* at Hongkong," says our contemporary "is a tribute to the trustworthiness of good Manila hemp, for had the towing hawser parted at any time after real China Sea weather was encountered, it would have been all up with the *Kaifong* and the 17 men on board." There were in fact 60 men on board. When the *Taming* signalled the *Kaifong* to know if she would be able to handle herself in case the tow-line parted, the answer came back "our condition would be hopeless."

"Indeed," the report continues, "with decks nearly perpendicular at times, the screws out of water and 'racing' at frequent intervals and the ships drifting away so fast before the monsoon, it was next to impossible to tell just what course they were making. The *Kaifong* with only her port propeller to keep her under way would quickly have met her fate had she parted with her consort, for it would have been nothing short of a miracle that would have enabled the *Taming* to have got another line to her had the first one parted."

At times the ships would be abreast and dark thoughts would suggest themselves as to what would be the outcome if the *Kaifong* crashed into the *Taming* aft. No such casualty occurred, however, and no accident befel the hawser which was guarded night and day like a powder mine. Altogether, our contemporary concludes, the bringing of the *Kaifong* to Hongkong reflects no light credit on Capt. Outerbridge and his crew, and it likewise shows the dire need of the Philippines for facilities for docking and repairing.

The report incidentally mentions that the passage occupied 69 hours and that when the China coast was sighted Captain Outerbridge had had only four hours' sleep.

SIR GERARD AND LADY NOEL  
"AT HOME."

At St. Paul's College on the 1st January Rear Admiral and Lady Noel were "at home" to their friends, and many called to pay their respects. Amongst others were H. E. the Governor, accompanied by his A.D.C., Captain Leslie, H. E. General Sir Villiers Hatton and Mrs. Hatton, Colonel Darling, Major and Mrs. Chichester, Major and Mrs. Ross, Major and Mrs. Watkin, Major and Mrs. Painter, Major and Mrs. Chitty, Major and Mrs. Jones, Colonel Seymour, Major and Mrs. Pritchard, Captain and Mrs. Marchant, Commodore and Mrs. Piggott Williams, Dr. Gimlett (Deputy Inspector General, Royal Naval Hospital) and Mrs. Gimlett, Sir Henry and Lady Berkeley, the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Gershom Stewart, the Hon. Doctor and Mrs. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Seth, and representatives of the foreign consulates in Hongkong.

Lady Noel received her guests at the entrance to the drawing room. Music was supplied by the band of the flagship, which was stationed on the lawn, but owing to the cold weather those present preferred to stay within doors, consequently the marquee on the lawn was deserted, and from within the music was almost inaudible.

LOCAL AND DISTRICT  
EVENTS, 1905.

## JANUARY.

- 3rd—Destructive fire at Elgin Road, Kowloon four shops gutted.  
 5th—First General Meeting Corinthian Yacht Club.—Dr. Forster, Assistant Port Health Officer, recommended for Royal Humane Society's medal for saving a sampan's crew from drowning.—Midshipman shoots himself on the Portuguese cruiser *Adamastor*.—Filipino murders another on the American s.s. *Tremont*, and later, mortally wounds a rich coolie at West Point.  
 7th—Irvine, an American, under arrest for alleged forgery; attempts suicide at Central Police Station.  
 8th—Sixth Club Race R.H.K.Y.C.  
 11th—Inaugural Meeting Kowloon Pigeon Club.—Charles Smith, Eric Hogman and William Nason hanged in Victoria Gaol for murder.—Disastrous fire at No. 168 Hollywood Road; nine Chinese roasted alive.  
 13th—Gang of pirates hold up a junk's crew in the harbour.  
 14th—Opening cruise Corinthian Yacht Club.—Inspector W. J. Ford, after 22 years' service in the Hongkong police force, left for England.  
 18th—Annual distribution of prizes at St. Stephen's College by H.E. the Governor.—Annual meeting China Provident, Loan and Mortgage Co., Ltd.—Annual meeting Hongkong Land Reclamation Co., Ltd.—Closing of the firm of Messrs. Turner and Co.  
 19th—Pagani, the Filipino, found guilty of murder and condemned to death.  
 20th—Annual presentation of prizes at Ellis Kadoorie Chinese Schools Society by H.E. the Governor.  
 22nd—Seventh R.H.K.Y.C. race.—A.D.C. performance of "Jane" at City Hall.—Navy beat H.K.F.C. at Rugby.—H.E. the Governor takes part in the shooting of the Volunteer Reserve Association.  
 23rd—General Stoessel calls at Hongkong.—H.E. the Governor distributes prizes at Belilos Public School.—Annual meeting Alice Memorial Hospital.  
 24th—Annual presentation of prizes at Diocesan school by H.E. the Governor.  
 25th—H.E. the Governor distributes prizes at Queen's College.  
 26th—Requiem service at Catholic Cathedral for Bishop Piazzoli.—Anglo-Chinese District Government Schools presentation of prizes by H.E. the Governor.—Volunteers annual ball at City Hall.  
 27th—H.E. the Governor presents diplomas won by students of Hongkong College of Medicine for Chinese.—Mr. Bennett Burleigh, *Daily Telegraph* war correspondent, calls at Hongkong.  
 28th—Annual prize distribution at Li Shing Scientific and Industrial College.—H.K.C.C. beat a team from Swatow by three wickets and 70 runs.  
 30th—Annual meetings of West Point Building Co., Ltd., Kowloon Land and Building Co., Ltd., and Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd.  
 31st—100 lighters destroyed by fire at Wuchow.—Annual meeting St. John's Cathedral.

## FEBRUARY.

- 4th—Major-General Slade inspects Volunteers.  
 7th—Annual meeting Hongkong Benevolent Society.  
 8th—Annual mobilization of troops.  
 9th—Opening night of fleet boxing at Kowloon.—Fire on the s.s. *Shahzada* at Kowloon Docks: Chief Officer, Mr. W. Laird, suffocated.  
 10th—Annual meeting Humphrey's Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.  
 11th—Hongkong's first annual regatta held. Fleet boxing concluded at Kowloon, champions in each class being, F. Cursen, light; J. Sucksmith, bantam; A. Walker, feather; Jordan, middle; Heavy, Gatehouse and J. Lavers shared honours.  
 13—Annual meeting Hongkong Ice Co., Ltd.—Eighth Club race R.H.K.Y.C.  
 14th—Half-yearly meeting Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd.—Annual meeting Church Missionary Association.  
 16th—First concert Philharmonic Society.



- 17th—H. E. the Governor entertains juveniles at Government House.  
 18th—Half-yearly meeting Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.  
 20th—Annual meeting Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.  
 21st—Opening day Hongkong Jockey Club's annual race meeting.  
 22nd—Ball at Government House.  
 25th—Annual meeting Green Island Cement Co., Ltd.  
 26th—Drs. Atkinson and Bell receive handsome gifts from H. I. M. the Czar of Russia for attention bestowed on wounded officers and men of the warship *Varyag*—Ninth Club race R.H.K.Y.C.  
 28th—Annual meeting Chamber of Commerce—Annual meeting Kowloon Bowling Green.—Annual meeting Institute of Engineers and Shipbuilders.

## MARCH.

- 1st—Combination of butchers agree to raise price of meat.  
 3rd—Fire Brigade Shield Competition; Foreman Grant's team the winners.  
 4th—Burma Regimental Sports at Kowloon.  
 7th—Opera at the City Hall, Dallas Bandmann Company.—Dr. Atkinson's Farewell at Sanitary Board.  
 8th—Chinese attempt to murder a hukong in the New Territory.  
 9th—Dallas Bandmann Co. at City Hall.—Annual meeting China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.  
 10th—Annual meeting Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd.—Lord Hawke visits Hongkong.  
 11th—Volunteer rifle meeting at the Tai Hang range.—Annual meeting Geo. Fenwick and Co., Ltd.—Fight in the New Territory between villagers and armed robbers; one villager killed.  
 13th—10th Club race R.H.K.Y.C.  
 15th—First appearance of the s.s. *Minnesota* in Hongkong harbour.—Seamen quarrel on the sailing ship *King George* while in port, and one is killed.  
 18th—Annual meeting National Bank of China.  
 21st—Interesting article on cricket by Lord Hawke appeared in this day's *Daily Press*.—Fernandez, the seaman on the sailing ship *King George*, who killed another sailor in a quarrel, was convicted on the charge of manslaughter, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment.  
 23rd—Annual meeting Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.  
 24th—Gr. F. W. Penning won the Volunteers championship prize for shooting.—Westminster Glee and Concert Party at City Hall.  
 25th—Annual meeting China and Manila S.S. Company.—West Kents beat H.M.S. *Albion* in the semi-final for the football shield.—Annual dinner of officers of the H.K.V.C. at the Hongkong Hotel.  
 26th—R.H.K.Y.C. 11th Club's race.—Corinthian Yacht Club's fifth Club race.  
 28th—Annual meeting Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd.  
 30th—Hongkong Rifle Association wound up.  
 31st—Annual meeting Watkins, Limited.—Important decision of the full Court in the case of *Tang Tsz U v. the Attorney-General*.

## APRIL.

- 1st—West Kents win the football shield, defeating H.M.S. *Glory's* team by two goals to nil; Lady Noel presents the winning players with medals.  
 6th—Royal Garrison Artillery Sports at Happy Valley.  
 7th—Opening day of V.R.C. Sports.—A.D.C.'s performance of "One Summer's Day" at City Hall.—Second class cruiser *Bonaventure* arrived in port to relieve the *Thetis*.  
 8th—Annual meeting Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., Ltd.—Final day of V.R.C. Sports at Happy Valley.  
 10th—Farewell Social at the Y.M.C.A. in honour of Rev. W. J. Southam.  
 11th—T. I. H. Prince and Princess Arisugawa arrive at Hongkong.  
 12th—Shipwrecked crew of the s.s. *Pharsalia* arrive at Hongkong.  
 15th—H.E. Major General Villiers-Hatton inspected Volunteers at Causeway Bay.—Members of Engineers' Institute took leave of their President, Mr. Newman Mumford.—Craigengower Cricket Club won th

- Shield, the Kowloon Club being the runners up.—Fancy football match at Happy Valley.—Annual meeting China Borneo Co., Ltd.  
 16th—Twelfth and final club race of the R.H.K.Y.C.  
 17th—Hongkong Schools Athletic Sports held at Happy Valley.  
 22nd—Opening of Kowloon Bowling Green.—Escape of three white women from Chinese homes in the West River.  
 24th—China Fleet left for annual manoeuvres at Mirs Bay.  
 25th—Extraordinary general meeting of George Fenwick and Co., Ltd.  
 27th—Hongkong's preparations to maintain neutrality.  
 28th—Inquiry re stranding of s.s. *Kong Nam*.—General Hatton presents trophies in connection with Soldiers' Club Billiard Tournament.  
 29th—Hongkong beat Germania in Annual Bowling Match.  
 30th—Annual Shooting Competition H.K.V.A.

## MAY.

- 2nd—Opening of New Sailors' Institute, Praya East.  
 6th—Annual meeting Hongkong Gun Club.—The coffer-dam which was built to raise the French cruiser *Sully*, was launched at Kowloon Docks.—Craigengower Cricket Club "at home" at Happy Valley at which Hon. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith presented the Cricket Shield and other trophies.—St. Patrick Club's billiard tournament won by Royal Engineers. Messrs. Banker and Co's s.s. *Wo Kwai* stranded on the Joss House Rock, near Wuchow.  
 13th—First meeting Hongkong Gymkhana Club.—Praya East Reclamation scheme postponed.  
 15th—New Company acquires the existing line and new concession of the High Level Tramways.  
 20th—Concert at Kowloon Bowling Club.  
 21st—Presentation of prizes won in the annual shoot of the H.K.V.C.—Variety entertainment at Wellington Barracks.  
 23rd—Sir Francis Piggott, Chief Justice, arrived at Hongkong.  
 24th—H.E. the Governor distributed prizes at the Kowloon School.  
 25th—The Chief Justice Commissioned.—Opening of short session of Legislative Council.—Officers of the amalgamated R.H.K.Y.C. elected.  
 27th—L.R.C. defeated the Hongkong Cricket Club in their annual tennis match.—Mr. C.E.H. Beavis won the Governor's cup for the month of June in the Volunteer Reserve Association's shooting competition.—The same marksman also won one of the *China Mail* cups.—Annual meeting Messrs. A. S. Watson and Co., Ltd.—Annual meeting Star Ferry Co., Ltd.  
 28th—Opening of new Roman Catholic Church at Kowloon.  
 29th—Return season of Bandmann Theatrical Co.

## JUNE.

- 1st—Sailing ship *Travancore* went ashore off Fokoi Point.  
 3rd—Extraordinary general meeting of Hongkong High Level Tramways Co., Ltd., for purpose of voluntarily winding up the company.  
 7th—Crew of s.s. *Oldhamia*, which was captured by Russian fleet, arrive at Hongkong.  
 8th—Announcement of withdrawal of China Squadron.  
 9th—Annual meeting Peak Church.—Sailing ship *Travancore* safely towed to Hongkong.  
 11th—Local Japanese celebrate the successes of their arms.  
 13th—Conversazione Y.W.C.A. at Government House.  
 14th—H.M.S. *Humber* sold by Messrs. Hughes and Hough.  
 15th—Important extradition judgment delivered in Supreme Court by His Honour the Chief Justice.  
 17th—Second meeting of Hongkong Gymkhana Club.  
 21st—Annual meeting China Light and Power Co., Ltd.  
 24th—H.E. the Governor presented prizes won by candidates in connection with the Balilios Trust Fund.

- 25th—Final of billiard tournament at Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders.  
 29th—Annual meeting Victoria Recreation Club.—Mr. J. Whittall wins the Governor's and one of the *China Mail* cups for the June shoot of the Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Association.  
 30th—Wired from London that the Chief Justice had been knighted; that Mr. A. Seth, Registrar of the Supreme Court, had been awarded the I.S.O.; also Mr. James Scott H.B.M. Consul General at Canton.

## JULY.

- 4th—Important judgment in Supreme Court by the Chief Justice re Saigon Extradition.  
 5th—Inquiry re stranding of *Travancore*.  
 6th—H.E. the Governor inspects Police Force.  
 11th—Highway Robbery at Pokfulam Road.—Fatal Affray on the *Fatshan*.  
 14th—French National Fête day; Reception at the French Consulate.  
 15th—Third meeting Gymkhana Club.—Annual meeting Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.  
 18th—Sandow opens at City Hall.  
 22nd—H.E. the Governor presents prizes at Italian Convent.  
 28th—Mr. J. C. Gow won the Governor's Cup for August in connection with the Volunteer Association.—Annual meeting United Asbestos Oriental Agency, Ltd.  
 29th—Annual water polo competition at V.R.C.—Battery Path mystery unravelled.—Ellis charged with manslaughter in connection therewith.

## AUGUST.

- 1st—H.E. the Governor decides to establish two Land Offices in the New Territory.  
 10th—Important Supreme Court judgment in Appellate Jurisdiction re Lam Tung and the Nam Loong firm.  
 12th—Earthquakes experienced at Macao and Hongkong.—American boycott extends to Hongkong.  
 14th—Fitzgerald's Australian circus opened at Causeway Bay.  
 16th—Prince and Princess Arisugawa of Japan received at Hongkong.  
 18th—Reception at Austro-Hungarian Consulate.  
 19th—Half-yearly meeting Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.  
 21st—Half-yearly meeting Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.  
 22nd—Italian Opera at Catholic Union.  
 26th—V.R.C. Swimming fete.  
 28th—Oliver Bainbridge, author and explorer, visits Hongkong.  
 29th—Annual meeting Navalyard Football Club.  
 31st—Annual meeting Civil Service Cricket Club.

## SEPTEMBER.

- 1st—Gaiety Stars open at City Hall.  
 2nd—Annual meeting of Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Co., Ltd.—Half-yearly meeting Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd.  
 3rd—Secretary Taft and party arrived at Hongkong.  
 5th—Fourth meeting of Gymkhana Club.  
 7th—Second Session of Legislative Council opens, when estimates were disclosed.  
 8th—Announced that Hongkong is to have an annual flower show.  
 9th—First of a series of concerts at Kowloon Docks.—Destructive fire in Cheong Lee furniture shop, Des Vœux Road.  
 22nd—Annual meeting Hongkong Cricket League.—Annual meeting Hongkong Football Club.  
 23rd—Annual meeting Douglas S. S. Co.  
 26th—Annual meeting Hongkong Cricket Club.—Commodore Williams succeeds Commodore Dicken, promoted to Rear Admiral.  
 28th—Annual meeting Craigengower Cricket Club.—Annual Meeting Royal Hongkong Yacht Club.—Reception at Portuguese Consulate.  
 29th—Annual Meeting St. Andrew's Society.—Annual Meeting Hongkong Hockey Club.  
 30th—Annual meeting William Powell, Ltd.—Annual meeting Canton and Hongkong Ice Co.

## OCTOBER.

- 1st—New Roman Catholic Bishop, Rt. Rev. D. Pozzoni, consecrated.  
 9th—Annual Meeting Corinthian Yacht Club.



12th—Interport shooting match—Annual meeting Kowloon Cricket Club—Hongkong Government advances a loan to China to redeem the Canton-Hankow railway concession.

14th—Opening of annual camp of Volunteers at Stonecutters.

17th—S.S. *Tai On* and Chinese torpedo boat collide in West river; latter sunk.

19th—Annual Meeting Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.

20th—Annual Meeting Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.

25th—Annual Meeting China Association.

28th—Opening cruise R.H.K.Y.C.

#### NOVEMBER.

2nd—Five missionaries massacred at Linchow.

3rd—Local Japanese celebrate their Emperor's birthday.

7th—Tebrau Planting Co. wound up—Baxter Schools annual sale of work.

8th—Annual meeting Hongkong Chess Club.

9th—King's birthday review; reception at Headquarters and levee at Government House.

10th—Three coolies killed by a blasting accident at Quarry Bay.

12th—Death of Mr. E. R. Bolillos.

14th—Government House Ball.

16th—Gascoigne Cup Competition—Meeting to organise St. George's Ball—Junk run down off Castle Peak.

18th—Wedding at Union Church, Bonnar-Hickling—Results of photographic Exhibition—Sampans smashed by wash of torpedo boat.

20th—Extraordinary meeting of Union Insurance Society of Canton.

21st—Annual Licensing Sessions—meeting of Kowloon Cricket Club—Earthquakes at Macao—Sale of gunboat *Tweed*.

22nd—Inquiry re tramway fatality.—Fire in Des Vaux Road.

23rd—Meeting Dairy Farm Co., Ltd.—Inquiry re Quarry Bay blasting fatality.

24th—Meeting of Steam Water Boat Co.—Body found floating in box in harbour.

25th—Ministering Childrens' League Annual Fête.

26th—Championship Royal Hongkong Yacht Club.—Burglary at Messrs. Gregor & Co's.

27th—Inquiry re a prisoner's death.

30th—Licensing Sessions.—Table boy's suicide.—St. Andrew's Ball.

#### DECEMBER.

1st—Pirates hold up a junk at Mirs Bay.

4th—Prisoner's death, medical service at the gaol.

6th—Masonic Installation.

7th—Meeting of Legislative Council.—Suicide of Captain Smith of s.s. *Siberia*.

8th—Horticultural Society Formed.—United Service Lodge Installation.

9th—"Shaughraun" presented by Victoria A.D.C.—Arrival of Griffins.—Hongkong Regatta.

10th—Fire on s.s. *Siberia*.

11th—Opening of French Convent Bazaar.

12th—St. John's Lodge Installation.

13th—Retirement of Sir Paul Chater from Legislative Council announced.

14th—Civil Servants meet to consider the advisability of establishing a co-operative store.

15th—Annual Ball of Engineers and Ship-builders of Hongkong.

16th—Meeting of China Traders' Insurance Co.—V.B.C. Regatta.—Opening of Kowloon Bowling Green. Field manoeuvres in New Territory.

17th—Bazaar of Toys.

18th—Mr. W. J. Bryan in Hongkong.—Arrival of subscription Griffins.—Concert at Seamen's Institute, Kowloon.

19th—Inquiry re stone carrier's death. Two natives sentenced for arson.

20th—Meeting of Union Insurance Society of Canton.

21st—Election of Mr. H. E. Pollock to Legislative Council.—Opening of the New King Edward Hotel.—Indians charged with murder acquitted.

22nd—Distribution of prizes at St. Joseph's College.

23rd—Engineers' Concert.—Sanitary Institute visit Green Island Cement Works.

25th—Christmas Celebrations.

26th—Coolie commits suicide.

27th—Meeting of Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing Co.—Meeting of Sanitary Board—Inquiry re Navyyard Extension fatality.

29th—Kowloon and Whampoa Dock Dance.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE GENERAL STAFF.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The new provision of brains for the Army by the appointment of a General Staff is a step in the right direction most certainly, but it must not be forgotten that, though mankind may be stepping in the right direction for safety, if he is so incautious as to leave a deadly enemy in his rear quite unnoticed he may possibly find himself in a more dangerous position than if he had turned and sternly confronted the danger. In the Army's case all this outward and visible tinkering is absolutely without value as a permanent patch upon a system probably more rotten than that possessed by any other nation. The Public observes with astonishment and apprehension the continued increase in our expenditure upon military preparation and blames the Army as an extravagant institution, but here the Public misses the point entirely. The leaps and bounds in the estimates of millions of pounds annually are not due to extravagance inside the Army itself but to mismanagement and juggling of funds outside the actual service. One only requires a few minutes reflection upon the, of late years, flooding our military service with whole hosts of incompetent in many cases, and if competent extraordinarily overpaid civil officials, clerks draughtsmen, messengers, and goodness knows what, to conclude where the extra expenditure arises. These civil additions to the army merely do what could be better done by the army itself at the usual small army rate of remuneration. As it is, where the pay of the competent disciplined soldier is reckoned in pence, that of an imperfectly trained civilian pushed in to do his work is reckoned in pounds, and, in some cases, even hundreds of pounds. This adds to the expense of the administration of the army's affairs and detracts appallingly from its mobility, usefulness and readiness for war. In this respect it takes as much public money to transport one civilian from place to place as Government would allow for whole companies of soldiers, and also, the lack of discipline amongst these highly-paid officials is absolutely against the general efficiency of the army. I have of late tried to learn something as to the continued success of the Japanese arms both by land and sea. The one and great reason—perhaps the only one outside courage and able leading—was that, when called upon to move, the forces consisted of a homogeneous whole, all, departments and all being either sailors or soldiers of the same cloth, training and way of thinking. It is a sad and sorry sight, entirely apart from the financial wastage of our system, to observe the rabble of all kinds attached to what should be a fighting whole. Unless this Army to the efficiency of our army is observed ever lurking and increasing in strength in its rear absolutely no step, such as appointing a General Staff, will effect one atom of improvement. Officers and men of the army are by no means the ignorant class the public so frequently pretend to believe them to be. There is a large percentage of most able men who are unable to use their abilities owing to what they would willingly do and excel in being handed over as suitable work to some extra and well-salaried civil official. So long as this goes on, so long may we expect repetitions of disasters financial and military such as we underwent at the outset of the South African War. The art of managing any machine lies in the ability to get the best amount of work out of it, and this will never be the case with our army so long as it is besprinkled with all sorts and conditions of men from outside it who act as a brake upon its capabilities and abilities.

Yours truly,  
C. O.

## SHANGHAI RIOTERS SENTENCED

The re-opening of the Mixed Court after the long intermission, attracted large crowds of Chinese and a good many foreigners to the Chékian Road tribunal. All through the disturbances of the preceding week the neighbourhood of the Court, whose functions had been the cause of so much angry discussion leading up to the riot, was remarkably quiet. The gate separating the magistrate's private quarters from the Court-yard was closed, but the Court itself had been left open for any curious persons to ramble through at will, a stray coolie or two alone appearing. All this was changed on Saturday. To guard against any possibility of disturbance, the Court was guarded by strong detachments of armed bluejackets, detachments having been sent from warships of every nationality represented in port. The prisoners, of whom a very large number had accumulated, among them many who had been arrested for rioting, were brought to the Court under escort of armed Sikhs and thus the place bristled with bare bayonets.

Apart from the crowd, the bluejackets, and the bayonets, the procedure was as usual. Two magistrates sat simultaneously, Mr. Kuan sitting with Dr. Mercklinghaus, the German assessor, downstairs, while Mr. King, with Mr. Schirmer, the German assistant assessor, dealt with less important cases in the upper Court.

The cases which had been adjourned from the last sitting (when the disturbances took place) were further remanded for the sitting of the British Assessor, who will take his seat to-day, when no guard will be present.

A large number of prisoners charged with trivial offences were dismissed with a caution, as they had already been in custody for several days. The police had made several arrests of persons who had been seen to have taken part in the disturbances of Monday and Tuesday, the 18th and 19th. The majority of those were identified by police witnesses and were sentenced to six months' imprisonment each. One of the rioters, a rich coolie, was identified by P.C. Aiers as having tried to stab a foreigner with a bayonet in Nanking Road on the 18th instant, and was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. A native of Tsungming, who was proved to have been one of the mob who looted the premises of the International Cyclery on the 18th instant and who was found in possession of a gun looted from the said premises was sentenced to one year's imprisonment; while a coolie who was found in possession of fifty rounds of ammunition stolen from the same store was awarded six months' imprisonment. Four men arrested by the Mixed Court runners and found in the possession of fighting irons were sentenced to six months' imprisonment each, and two others arrested in a similar manner were sentenced to three months' imprisonment. Three men were charged with looting a native house at the corner of Yunban and Pakhoi Roads, the scene of Monday night's fire. The ringleader was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and the other two to three months' imprisonment. A coolie charged with escaping from Louza station prison was awarded one month's imprisonment. A native woman charged with obtaining jewellery by false pretences was sentenced to four months' imprisonment in the Mixed Court prison. Four men were charged with being concerned together with evilly-disposed persons, assembled and gathering together to disturb the peace and good order of the Settlement, and also with being concerned together in the murder of a native, whose dead body was found in a creek near Ichang Raad. Evidence was given to the effect that the principal prisoner was a well-known desperado and that he had frequently been seen in company with suspicious characters. These prisoners were remanded for further enquiries.—*N.-C. Daily News*.

From Newchwang, American Consul-General Sammons reports that at present Manchuria is not really clamoring for motor boats. But there are rivers in Manchuria and there are always possibilities in the future. "Motors for converting sail and rowboats into power-boats," writes the Consul General, "may ultimately find an extensive market among the native population."



## A BOOK BY A MURDERER.

## A "YELLOW PERIL" PRODUCTION.

Probably very few of our readers remember the affair of two or three months ago, in which an Englishman went into the Chinese quarter at Wellington, New Zealand, and deliberately shot an aged Chinaman, in order to advertise a book he had written against Alien Immigration. This misguided young man (he was 36 years old) was named Lionel Terry; he was born in Kent, educated at Eton and Oxford, served in the Matabele campaign, and has travelled and laboured in various capacities all over the British Empire.

He shot twice at the Chinaman, to make sure of killing, then went to a bookseller, remarked that there ought to be an increased demand now for the book, and surrendered to the police. He was tried and condemned to death.

The book, a thirty page pamphlet, was sent to us for review, and in May last year we spoke of it as a mass of remarkably foolish twaddle. It looks now as if we might have described it as the ravings of a madman. Before giving extracts, we may mention that a brief inscription in the author's handwriting seems to afford confirmation of some of the theories of those who believe in graphology. The writing has a pronounced slope; the capitals are redundant and eccentric, the writer changing from ornate curves to the most severe forms, and being given to sublineation with extra emphatic-looking dots. This writing, according to the graphologists, denotes a very impulsive temperament, artistic, egotistic, and disliking restraint or sustained effort.

The "work" is dedicated "to my Brother Britons," and the author declares "that every statement contained herein is the truth; that this work is the result of many years of personal research in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, the United States of America, and many minor parts of the world. In order to obtain facts, I have visited slums, worked side by side with aliens of various nationalities in stone quarries, coal mines, fruit plantations, saw mills, and many other industrial enterprises; I have studied the methods of living and general characteristics of savage races and the effects produced upon them by civilization."

He says it is the capitalist who is chiefly responsible for alien immigration, and its "terrible ravages;" that "the natural hatred existing between the various races of the world can never be eradicated without the sacrifice of racial purity." With regard to the mixed marriages thus indicated, he says "the punishment exacted by nature has been signally severe, as is evidenced by the moral, mental, and physical ill-health of cross-bred people throughout the world." Alien immigration into British Possessions, he says, has a tendency to produce degenerate habits, and to lower the moral standard of the whites. Their presence destroys patriotism. Their employment is "a criminal injustice to the British workman," and "the chief cause of the poverty, crime, and general degeneracy existing throughout the empire." He goes on: "I declare that the Government of the British Empire is Jew-ridden and corrupt," and declares that "certain members of the House of Rothschild are, and have been for many years past, the private advisers of the British Cabinet." They have turned the British Empire into an unlimited company, which imports "undesirable aliens, cheap labour, poverty, misery, crime, vice, disease, plague, and gold. Its chief exports are truth, purity, honour, health, justice, patriotism, and British blood." Our dependencies on the continent of America are "haunted by the outcast of Asia," in which he includes both Japanese and Chinese. "I repeat now," he says, "what I stated before the Commission [a Royal Commission appointed by the Dominion Government to enquire into the effect of Chinese and Japanese immigration into British Columbia] there is only one method of ridding the Empire of the alien scourge, and that is revolution!" British Columbia—"its true name is Chinese Columbia." The following sentence is strangely suggestive of the state of mind leading to the author's crime: "It is a thousand times more merciful to kill a man by stabbing him with a

knife, or shooting him with a gun, than to kill his spirit, to crush out every spark of hope that is in him, and to render him a mere soulless, aimless derelict, with no feeling save one of burning hatred against his murderer." That the glorious traditions of the British race may not be embodied in a nation of bastards, that British children may not become the slaves of Asiatic aliens, he strives to emphasise "the urgent necessity for immediate action."

Then follow two poems, one showing "the shadow" over Britain in A.D. 2,000, after we have opened wide the gates

"For all the plague-fraught offal of the earth,  
For thugs and thieves and vicious profligates,  
Who fled the law of land that gave them birth!"

From one who takes such interest in "The glorious traditions" of Britain these two stanzas seem somewhat inconsistent;—

"Dost thou remember, Britain, how thou didst obtain  
All these possessions thou hast named thy Britains?  
How thou didst take upon thyself the Brand  
of Cain

To satiate a horde of grasping gluttons?  
For thou didst go unto the heathen lands  
To preach the gospel of the gentle Christ;  
Yea, with the Holy Bible in thine hands  
Didst thou set forth to wreak revolting crime!"

Students of Lombroso will note in this "human document" how the author harps on the theme of murder, and "the Brand of Cain." It is also symptomatic that once embarked on denunciations of the Government, he forgets his antipathy to aliens, and speaks of them as "simple, trusting, free, lavish of noble hospitality, children of nature, chivalrous and bold," while John Bull is told,

"Because that they were black thou didst assume  
Thyself superior, entitled to condemn them."

The author has gone further than that, and assumed himself superior, entitled to murder them. He, of course, means that black aliens are better than yellow aliens. His feelings towards the Chinese (or is it Japanese?) are patent.

"Thus hast thou wrought, O Britain, and with these  
Mongolian slaves, defiled beyond salvation,  
Who thus infest thy land, the very lees  
Of earth's most sunken and degraded nation;  
These craven knaves who cringing friendship feign

Whilst bitter hatred seethes in every vein;  
Who, fawning, suck thy blood, the while they scheme

To pour their yellow millions o'er thy land,  
O Britain! dost thou dream thine honour to redeem

With these, these plague-fraught, sin-spawned fiends, who stand  
A ghastly monument to ancient shame,  
The fell embodiment of all that doth proclaim  
The dreadful frailty of the human frame."

The other poem is an exhortation to the King, to frustrate them "who hold the rein of commerce, spurred by wolfish lust for gold," who would sell their brothers' birthright to "Mongol, Ethiop, nameless horror, human brute from many a clime." He is forbidden to "cherish craven Mongol, cringing slave of Mammon bred," and advised, "Strike! O King! 'tis God or Mammon! Strike! O King! 'tis life or death!" The italics and exclamation marks are also symptomatic. An attempt was being made to save the condemned man's life, on the plea of insanity, but with what result we have not yet learned.

## FIRE AT WEST POINT.

Early on New Year's eve, fire broke out in a tea and tobacco shop at No. 293 Queen's Road West. The detachment of the brigade under Inspector Collett were quickly on the scene, and, before the firemen could arrive from the Central, managed to get the fire in hand; their assistance on arrival, however, proved of service in extinguishing the outbreak. The damage is estimated at \$2,500, while the stock was insured in l'Union of Paris for \$6,000, and for another \$500 in the Chan On Insurance Co. The building, which was slightly damaged, was insured for \$3,250 in the latter insurance office.

## A PROCLAMATION OF VICEROY CHOU FU.

Be it known to all that I have come to Shanghai by Imperial instructions to investigate matters in connection with the Mixed Court affair. On my arrival here I at once received the local officials and gentry and made minute enquiries as to the causes of the disturbance and about the riot which followed the former. I find, however, that in the latter instance the stoppage of trade was not due to the desire of the merchants and people of the port, but they were forced to do so by rowdies and desperadoes, who had suddenly combined and coerced merchants and traders into closing their shops. Eventually, Yuan Taotai and certain gentry and heads of guilds appeared, and personally exhorted the said merchants and traders to reopen their doors to business, which was obeyed by them without delay, while, on the other hand, the rowdies and desperadoes also fled and separated.

My coming here is primarily with the important object of preserving order and ensuring the safety of the district, and the lives and property of all Chinese and foreign officials, merchants, literati, and inhabitants must be adequately protected. I have already issued instructions to the officers commanding the troops quartered round about here to station troops at various important points on land and river, with strict orders not to permit a single outlaw to pass through the lines, and that if any one be found carrying weapons for the purpose of finding occasion to rob, or to spread rumours or disseminating expresses with the object of creating riots and disturbances, such men, upon being discovered by the local mandarin and officers commanding troops, are to be arrested at once, tried, and summarily decapitated. Should resistance be made against those sent to make arrests, permission is given to slay the resisters without mercy.

As to Mrs. Li Wang-shih, whose case of arrest by mistake and consequent imprisonment in the foreign gaol caused universal indignation among the merchants and people, in order to avoid a repetition of such things I have instructed the Shanghai Taotai to confer with the Consuls of the various Treaty Powers to try to arrive at some equitable basis of action so that there may be no infringements on the rights of one another, thereby maintaining mutual friendship between ourselves and foreigners and avoid for ever mutual distrust and suspicion. It is necessary, therefore, that all gentry, merchants, literati, and people concerned shall take this into consideration and peacefully pursue each one's avocation as usual, and be careful how you suffer yourselves to wrongfully believe rumours and so create suspicion and distrust amongst yourselves. Let all take this to heart and obey. A special proclamation:

22nd December.

The foregoing was specially translated for the N.-C. Daily News, which adds the following comment:—

One who understands well the Chinese language and usage writes us as follows concerning the proclamation issued by the Viceroy last Friday: "This proclamation shows more than the usual amount of Chinese finesse. It is aptly worded, and tends to deceive, or what the Chinese understand as *hu lang*. "Face" is given to the Chinese, while the situation is misconstrued. Few, perhaps, would think there was anything wrong with the statement of the case made by the Viceroy. He knocks from under the foreigners in Shanghai all they have been resting upon, and this is done so slyly that the innocent foreigner will not know it. I hope you will cast your light on this document, which ranks Chou Fu as a master diplomat."

This proclamation is indeed worthy of study. There are certain things in it which are so apparent that the average resident in our Settlements can hardly be deceived. He plainly shows that the evidence he took was *ex parte*, for he acknowledges that on his arrival in Shanghai he only consulted the Chinese officials and gentry as to the origin of the dispute and the character of the riot. Naturally he concludes that the strike did not result from the action of the merchants and people,



but from ruffians, and he announces his opinion as such. This is just what the officials, gentry, and merchants were anxious to have stated by so high an authority as the Viceroy of the Liang Kiang. The decision being made by him, it will not be expected that any Consul or the Municipal Council will be able to produce any satisfactory evidence to the contrary, and once again we shall find that the men who were at the bottom of the uprising will escape, while a few thieves will get all the blame. It is to be regretted that this can happen in a Foreign Settlement, but if it can, we might as well know it.

The next delicious piece of news is that the riot was also suppressed by the same officials and gentry. There is not one word as to the prompt and defensive action taken by the Municipal Council, the marines and sailors of the different men-of-war. To mention this most important fact would not be in harmony with the main idea of the Viceroy, as well as of all Chinese at the present juncture, to claim the same sovereign right in the limits of the Settlements as in other part of the Empire of China. Hence, there is not one word to lead anyone to suppose that the riot had taken place in the Settlements; rather one would suppose the riot had occurred in Shanghai. This being so, the Viceroy orders all his military to guard every approach by land and water, that no ruffian be allowed to enter, without saying what place. It is even hinted that the Chinese military are to be stationed within the limits of the Settlements with powers to arrest and punish, whereas this power rests with the Municipal Council under supreme control of Foreign Governments, so that not one Chinese soldier could march through the streets of the Settlements unless with a pass from the Municipal Council. It is clear that the purpose of the Viceroy by a stroke of the pen is to do away with any such thing as a Foreign Settlement at a treaty port. Instead of broaching the question, he takes it for granted.

The Viceroy then adds that the placing of a Chinese woman in the foreign gaol was a mistake, whereas there is no foreign gaol for Chinese prisoners, but a Municipal gaol, built by the taxes of the ratepayers for Chinese, not foreign, prisoners. So by another stroke of the pen the so-called "foreign gaol" is to be discarded. It is therefore practically decided by the Viceroy that Vice-Consul Twyman did a wrong, in ordering that the female prisoners be sent to the Municipal gaol whereas we fancy the British Government will have something to say on this matter, and will not leave it to the sole decision of even so high an official as the Viceroy of the Liang Kiang and so estimable a man as His Excellency Chou Fu.

The proclamation is indeed a skilfully worded one. It shows the great ability of the Viceroy, but none the less it is unsatisfactory, because it is not true to the facts. Its sins of omission are even greater than its sins of commission. We fear the only result will be to delude the Chinese, while avoiding a face-to-face settlement of all the questions that are concerned, a settlement that must be reached by two sides, not by one. The present quiet is therefore illusory. What is wanted now, and has been wanted for many years, is some new definite, binding agreement, to take the place of the old, but this is a matter for more extended consideration.

#### DEATH OF A PRISONER.

At the Magistracy on January 6th before Mr. F. A. Hazeland and Messrs. W. E. Rowe, S. Schwat and G. Grimble, jurors, an inquiry was held into the cause of the death of Ng In' a prisoner, who died on Thursday.

E. J. Pierpont, Chief Warder in Victoria gaol, gave evidence as to the deceased's admission on 20th January, 1902, when he was convicted of armed robbery.

Dr. W. Moore, medical officer of the gaol, said deceased was admitted to the gaol hospital on 7th December in a very weak condition. He was suffering from tubercular meningitis, an invariably fatal disease, and died from the effects thereof.

The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

#### REVIEWS.

*The Nightless City*, by J. E. de BECKER. Shanghai, Yokohama, and Bremen: Max Nössler & Co. 2nd and revised edition.

This remarkable book is entitled to and will undoubtedly experience more than two editions. To the properly balanced mind, its presentation should require no excuses, but in deference to social prejudices, the author, maintaining anonymity, wrote an eloquent preface to the first edition, to disarm criticism, or at any rate to avert the misunderstandings and wrong judgments that are always to be expected in such connections. Then, when the value of the work, not only as a collation of data "for students of sociology, medical men, and philanthropists," but also as an invaluable historical record for all interested in sinology, became apparent, the author took courage, and owned the child of his brain. More than that, he contributes a second preface, in which he abandons the quasi-apologetic tone of one under reproof; and himself becomes, with some justice, the accuser. Mrs. Grundy is denounced as an "unctuous person" of "mawkish sensibility" to whom "he neither owes nor offers an apology." The studious person, able to face sanely all the facts of life, pleasant or otherwise, and disembarassed of the stupid notion which profanes purity with the fig-leaf paraphernalia always more pornographic than anything else imaginable, will mildly wonder at the necessity for such prefaces. Doubtless it was wise of the author to face this social hypocrisy as boldly as he has faced the formidable task whose able execution is made evident in the handsome volume under review. Much is possible in a book like this that, in the present diseased state of public opinion, would not be forgiven in a newspaper; and we cannot, therefore, discuss Mr. de Becker's opening arguments. In the position of publicly recommending the study of this book to all interested in sociology, in Japan, and in Far Eastern folklore, we may be justified in asking the prudish, which is the more likely to do mischief: serious books which deal faithfully with the sordid as well as with the romantic side of the subject: or those purely romantic productions which find so warm a welcome in modern homes, and which carry the imagination of the inexperienced and impressionable reader as close as Mrs. Grundy allows to a point where ignorance is neither bias nor virtue, and its continuance liable to result in irreparable mischief? We do not attach much value to the saying, "To the pure all things are pure," because society, with the best intentions, has permitted itself to go grievously astray with its definitions. By vulgar consent, that which is intrinsically pure is dubbed impure; and that which is positively immoral in its tendency and effect is complacently accepted as a concession to decency and public order. Until the advent of Mrs. Grundy from Europe, the Japanese were untainted by the unhealthy consciousness which Holy Writ itself marked as the first symptom of a fall from Edenic purity of thought and conduct. The Japanese policeman who sternly ordered a foreign lady to supply some covering for her baby girl's arms when out walking with her in the heat of summer, was a missionary product, Japan, by no means sinless, had gained a gratuitous sin of which it was before unconscious. It would pleasure us to think that the "unctuous persons" referred to by Mr. de Becker might ponder these things, and thereby come to a sense of all that was implied when certain other unctuous persons were bidden, with a proviso, to "cast the first stone." But as that is too much to hope for, we have no heart to go further; nor to point out that Japan has been for ages, without missionary counsel, striving to cure herself, or at least to mitigate what some sociologists regard as an incurable cancer. This book, very considerably revised and added to, tells all about that; so ably, so interestingly, so convincingly, that there can be no two opinions as to its merits as a contribution to a study of serious moment. We sympathise with the author's depreciation of the foreign glibness which chatters about "the immorality of Japanese"; but we do not like the advice he thereon (in the first preface) gave. Rather we would

ask them to ask, "what is impurity." Fairly considered and answered, and given some knowledge of the Japanese, it would be instantly admitted—not that other peoples have no "monopoly of virtue"—but that the Japanese have no monopoly of vice, nor indeed, any disproportionate share of it. If they have all-round historians as careful generally as Mr. de Becker has shown himself in this particular, posterity will one day remember them, we prophesy, as a singularly virtuous people.

Of the new edition as a production, we have to say that it is a very creditable one; but in our opinion the plates have fallen short of the charm and delicacy of those in the first edition. In the coloured plates more especially, there is a distinct falling off. Otherwise, the paper and type are an improvement. We might also add that while the binding is thoroughly ornate and characteristic, it was perhaps unnecessary to give such a work the gorgeous exterior of a drawing-room-table book, or presentation volume. This is hypercriticism; and the impression of the moment. It should perhaps also be mentioned that would-be readers, who do not know any Japanese, will find a good dictionary almost indispensable to the proper study of the work.

*How to Write the Radicals*; by J. Dyer Ball, 2nd ed. Hongkong: Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

There is one thing to be said for all Mr. Ball's books, and that is that when he sets out to instruct the reader, he puts things so clearly and lucidly that he who runs can read and even remember. There is an excursus at the back of this which gives valuable hints on the use of Chinese dictionaries, but about the radicals there is neither excursus nor discoursus. Just sufficient to show at a glance "how to write the radicals," and how interesting and important it is to write them in the right way.

*A New Geography of Japan*; by C. B. MITFORD, F. R. G. S. Yokohama: "Japan Gazette" Co. Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

Except that there might be more of it, we have not a criticism to make concerning this "New geography for the upper forms of schools and colleges, with maps, illustrations and historical notes." The illustrations are actual, excellent and well-selected photographs, the maps clear and correct, and the letterpress compact and discriminately set out. It is an eminently sensible geography, and at 75 or 85 cents, according to binding, ought to sell like hot cakes.

#### DOCK COMPETITION AT SHANGHAI.

The fact that the Kiangnan Dock and Engineering Co. has secured the contracts for the repairs of the *Poyang* and *Kiangfoo* has evidently (says the *N.C. Daily News*) caused some searching of competitive hearts. The *Poyang* has been docked, and it is found that her whole bow is smashed, her stem being broken in two places. The repairs to the *Kiangfoo's* engine are expected to occupy two months.

The opening remark is explained by the following letter:—

Sir,—In view of the fact that our colossal Engineering and Shipbuilding Co. finds it necessary to close some of its establishments owing to lack of work, I believe the time is ripe for an expression of public opinion as to the legality and status of the Kiangnan Engineering and Dock Co. (which is purely and simply a Government undertaking) being allowed to compete against public companies for work (apart from the Chinese Navy), especially as the community seems to be adequately served.

The Government Steel Works in only supplying material fill a want and do not run against active local competition inasmuch as their prices are higher than the importing cost, whereas the Kiangnan Engineering and Dock Co., with the advantages under which it started, should be able to book every contract that is open to competition.



## PICTURESQUE INCIDENTS OF THE SHANGHAI RIOT.

During the early stages of the riot in Hongkew Market, many foreign women were present. In several cases foreigners were injured by stones, but several left the market ignorant of the fact that any disturbance had occurred. In spite of the bogus circular circulated on Sunday evening many prominent native butchers kept open their stores as long as it was possible to do so. One foreign lady was in Cheng Kee's making purchases in the midst of the riot. Fortunately for her, a foreigner lifted her bodily from the shop to his carriage, seated her there, placed his revolver in her hands, and told her to get home as quickly as possible. The lady has no idea who the gentleman was and still retains the revolver.

On Monday morning, during the disturbance in Nanking Road, one of the assistants in the store of Ching Fong (tailor) was shot through the stomach in his shop, the shot being fired from the road. It was a glancing shot which first penetrated a rubber hot-water bag and then glanced off some hard substance until it found its billet in the body of the unfortunate assistant.

During the attack on Hongkew Police Station, in the absence of permission or order to serve out firearms, the staff were armed with the shafts of disabled rickshas, and these proved most effective weapons for repelling the mob.

Throughout the riot our Sikh police have proved most faithful and energetic. No sooner had one batch finished guard duty, than they volunteered for the next guard. This has been the case throughout the week.

The hose of the Hongkew Fire Company was a prominent factor in quelling the disturbance in Hongkew Market on Monday. The streams were very effective in breaking down the barricades of stalls and benches from the rear of which the rioters were throwing stones and nightsoil at foreigners and natives in foreign employ.

During the attack on Louza Station Inspector Wilson and a civilian had to retire from the charge-room to the store-room—a room whose only exit was on to the charge room. From the door of this room the Inspector and his companion fired as many shots as possible on the mob until the faulty mechanism of the ejectors rendered their weapons useless. In the meantime the mob obtained bamboo poles, some twenty feet in length, and continuously prodded the occupants of the room. Finally, the charge-room was set on fire, and the two men had to burst open the door of their refuge and break through the crowd to gain the upper floor of the buildings.

The total destruction of Louza Station was averted by the flooding of the upper floors of the buildings.

The station was systematically set on fire, the mob bringing with them goods of an inflammable nature, looted from stores in Nanking Road. These were set on fire and carried from room to room.

The origin or first incident of the disturbance in Nanking Road was the entry of a loafer into a tea-shop for food and his refusal to pay for a meal. Upon demand being made for payment, he struck the attendant. The police were called and he was arrested, and taken to the Station, followed by an angry and excited mob, which increased as the Station was neared.

The attack on, and demolition of the Metropole Annexe was due to the fact that a foreigner, being chased by the mob, took refuge there.—N.C.D.N.

## YELLOW RIVER BRIDGE RE-OPENED.

The N.C. Daily News is informed that the Yellow River bridge was opened to regular traffic on the 20th December. The whole journey from Peking to Hankow and vice versa is actually made in four days, without travelling during the night. In next April there will be a weekly direct train with sleeping and dining cars, and the journey will be made in 40 hours..

## KOWLOON C. C. JUVENILE SPORTS.

If the children present did not enjoy themselves at the Kowloon Cricket Club on Jan. 1st it was not the fault of the sports committee, who left nothing undone that should have been done to make the sports a success. There can be no doubt, however, that all in attendance had a good day's enjoyment; the smiling faces and happy laughter of the little ones was sufficient proof of this. The weather, although cold, left nothing to be desired, and the expedition with which the various events were brought off was pleasing alike to the onlookers and the competitors. The Club's new flag, coloured red and white and bearing the letters "K.C.C." in green, fluttered from the flagstaff, while various flags surrounded the ground. The fighting men of Ind, clad in khaki, watched events from the adjacent hills. There were also side shows and clowns amongst the crowd, and these appeared to amuse the children immensely. Throughout the afternoon the band of the 119th Infantry played selections of music. There was an interval in the programme for light refreshments, and these were served at tables by the side of the sports ground, Messrs. Weismann and Co. being the providers. The brain tub was in charge of Mr. Duncan and Mr. A. G. Ward, and all children under five years of age were allowed to draw a present out of this. The committee, whose efforts brought the sports to such a successful termination, were:—

Reception Committee: Messrs. T. Skinner, Rose, R. Stevenson, G. Duncan, J. Sibbitt, and R. Lapsley.

Boys' Handicap Committee: Messrs. W. Curwin, H. Goldsmith, J. Witchell, S. Lightfoot, T. Abley, J. Robinson, and R. Mitchell.

Girls' Handicap Committee: Messrs. D. Mackenzie, J. Ramsay, J. Clelland, A. J. Ward, A. G. Pile, D. Purves, and G. W. Kynock.

Refreshment Committee: Mrs. Kynock, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Goldsmith, G. H. May, J. W. Rattacy, J. D. Logan, J. R. Craik, and others.

Prize Committee: Messrs. A. G. Pile, S. Lightfoot, J. Ramsay, D. Purves, and T. Skinner.

## DOUBLE TRAGEDY IN SHANGHAI.

A sensation was created in Hongkew, Shanghai, on Dec. 27 when the report was spread that a European had murdered a lady and then committed suicide. It was ascertained that the tragedy had occurred at No. 20, North Szechuen Road, the residence of Mrs. Hartwig, a boarding-house keeper. It appears that Mrs. Hartwig and Capt. Hölger, who resided in the same house, had not been seen after about noon, and that between 5.30 and 6 p.m. the discovery was made that Mrs. Hartwig's bedroom door was locked. This was a most unusual circumstance, and suspicions being aroused, the door was forced open. A terrible tragedy was then revealed, Mrs. Hartwig being found in the room dead, and Capt. Hölger, also dead, he apparently having shot himself in the mouth with a revolver.

Capt. Hölger was lately in command of the C. M. S. *Feiching*.

The room in which Capt. Hölger shot Mrs. Hartwig was his own room the door of which he must have locked after his victim entered. When the suspicions of the inmates of the house were aroused it was found that not only was the bedroom door locked, but the entrance from the bathroom was blocked by a desk. Mrs. Hartwig was found lying on the floor, dead, at the foot of the bed and between the table and the wall. She had received the bullet in the back of the head, Capt. Hölger was lying, also dead, on the floor by the bed, and the bullet which entered his mouth had left the head at the back. In the ceiling another bullet was found, so that three shots were fired, and it seems a remarkable thing that no one heard the reports. The weapon used was a large five-chambered revolver, in which were found three discharged and two undischarged cartridges. Except for the removal of the desk the room was not disordered.

The cause of the crime is reported as jealousy on the part of the deceased man, who was engaged to marry Mrs. Hartwig.

The murdered woman very nearly had a similar fate a year or two back when her late husband committed suicide after making an attempt on her life. Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Hartwig's little four-year-old child so sadly orphaned.

The German Consul-General has satisfied himself as to the cause of death in the case of both deceased.—N.C. Daily News.

## MARRIAGE AT THE PEAK CHURCH.

On the 6th January at the Peak Church, Mr. W. L. Carter, the local manager of the China and Japan Electric and Telephone Co. was married to Miss Maud Louisa Harlow, who had arrived from England the previous day. As the bridal party took their place at the altar, which was tastefully adorned with palms for the occasion, the congregation sang "The Voice that breathed o'er Eden," Mr. E. J. Chapman playing the accompaniment. The Rev. F. T. Johnson was the officiating clergyman; Dr. Stedman gave the bride away, and the little sons of Dr. and Mrs. Stedman were in attendance upon the bride. Mr. F. Graham, an old school-fellow of the bridegroom's, acted as best man. As the bridal party left the Church at the conclusion of the ceremony the "Wedding March" was played. The reception was held at "Formosa," the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Stedman, where the friends of the happy couple tendered their good wishes in the usual way Dr. Stedman proposing the toast. Shortly afterwards Mr. and Mrs. Carter left in a shower of rice to catch the boat for Macao, where the honeymoon is being spent.

## SHANGHAI MIXED COURT.

It is not hard to guess why the Mixed Court officials resent foreign interference with their doings; but those who lack the necessary inkling may find it in the following queries asked by the *China Gazette*:—

- 1.—Why is the Mixed Court so anxious to remand all female prisoners in the Mixed Court?
- 2.—Are any Court runners the owners of or in any way interested in brothels, opium dens or tea shops?
- 3.—What is the amount of "squeeze" generally demanded, to allow a person arrested, and very often on a trumped-up charge, being allowed bail?
- 4.—Why are no receipts given by the Mixed Court for monies received by way of bail fees or otherwise?
- 5.—Why are no summonses issued in civil cases—but always warrants of arrest?
- 6.—What is the entrance fee to one of the upper cells and the monthly fee for a bed space in same?
- 7.—What is the fee for being allowed to smoke opium in the upper cells?

## A CALENDRIAL COINCIDENCE.

A correspondent of the *Straits Times* writes:—Can any Anglo-Chinese scholar kindly inform me how it is that Christmas Day always either falls on the third day after the Chinese Tungchih festival (which is a national holiday in China) or on the fourth day, when there is an intercalary month in the Chinese year?

In 1903 there was an extra fifth month in the Chinese year, and Tungchih fell on 23rd December.

In 1904 and 1905 it fell on 22nd December. Next year there will be an intercalary fourth month, and it will be on 23rd December.

Xmas is known to the old Malacca Babas as the Portuguese New Year and there is a saying which runs as follows:—

*Tiga ampat hari lepas Tangchek* (the Hockien pronunciation for Tungchih) *taon bahru Serani* i.e., three or four days after Tangchek comes Xmas.

The majority of Malacca Babas are the descendants of Hockien men. *Tungchih* is the pronunciation in the Mandarin dialect.



## SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 5th January, 1906.—The improved tone of the market reported in our last has been well maintained, and a fair general cash business has been transacted during the week. In most cases at advanced rates. The Chinese New Year bogey is not so rampant, and a general impression prevails that its powers of a deleterious effect on the market have been over-estimated. As a matter of fact Chinese weak holders of our local stocks have cleared out of them sometime ago, and the remainder, having no need to sacrifice their stock, are quite prepared to hang on for better times. The fact of such an improvement in the tone of the market as has taken place in the last two weeks, at the advent of the Chinese New Year, can only be regarded as a most satisfactory and exceptional feature of our market, and as a harbinger of a further improvement. Exchange on London 2/0½ on demand.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been in strong demand, and after small sales at \$875, \$880, \$885, \$887½, \$890 and \$895 close at \$895. Shares are very firmly held and difficult to procure when wanted. The London rate has advanced to £93. Nationals unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been placed at \$717½ and closed with buyers at \$720. Cantons have changed hands at \$315 and \$310, the latter more or less a forced sale. China Traders have ruled very firm and an almost general demand has met with but a very small response, the rate has consequently risen without any important business to \$90 at which the market closes steady to strong. North Chinas and Yangtszes remain quiet and without local business at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs remain neglected at \$330. Chinas have advanced to \$90, after sales at \$89 in the early part of the week.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao after small sales at \$25½, close firm at the latter rate. Indo-Chinas have been in demand during the week but with no shares available; the rate has risen from 90½ to 91 with buyers and no sellers. China Manilas have changed hands at the reduced rate of \$20 and Shell Transports at 23/- Douglases have been in request and the rate has improved to 36½ without business, and it is possible that a higher rate would be paid for any shares forthcoming.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled firmer and sales are reported at \$205: there is not much business doing in this stock, however. Luzons remain unchanged at \$24 with buyers after small sales at that rate.

MINING.—With the exception of a small rise in Raubs to \$4 we have nothing to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong Docks continue dull with sellers at \$164 and no sales to report. Kowloon Wharfs remain unchanged and without business. Farnhams have declined to Tls. 122 in Shanghai and sales have been made at equivalent sales forward.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have slightly improved with sales to \$125. West Points, after a long period of inactivity, have been placed in fair lots at \$55, the market closing steady at that rate. Hongkong Hotels look rather better with buyers at \$149, but with no sales to report. Humphreys have found further buyers at \$12½.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have fallen in Shanghai to 43 and Hongkongs locally to 13½. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Bells Asbestos have changed hands at 7½. China Providents at \$9. Green Islands 28½ and 28½, and China Light and Powers at \$9. Watsons have advanced to \$13 with sellers, and Powell's have declined to \$10 also with sales. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100, buyers
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$895, London, £93.
National B. of China		
A. Shares	£5	38, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7½, sales
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$9, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 44, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$13, sales
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 54
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 250
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$15½, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 122
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$108
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$164, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$17
Shanghai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 221, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$25, \$24½
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$28½, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15, buyers
Do. New	\$10	\$14½, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$210
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$149 buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$235
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$152
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$13, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$315,
China Fire	\$20	\$90, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$90, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$330,
North China	\$25	Tls. 95
Union	\$100	\$725, buyers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$170
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$125, sales
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$12½, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$40, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 120
West Point Building	\$50	\$55
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubs	18/10	\$4, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5, buyers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$205
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$24, buyers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$20, sales
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$36½, buyers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$25½, buyers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$90½, buyers
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	23/-, sellers ex. d.
Do. Preference	\$10	\$8. 10s.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32
Do. New	\$5	\$23, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$7, sellers
Do.	\$5	6½, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$10 sales
Watkins	\$10	\$6 sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 29th December, 1905, states:—During the week under review, notwithstanding the Christmas holidays which made a gap of two days, a fair business has been done, particularly in Farnhams, Wharves and Langkats. These sales were in most cases adjustments for the Dec. Settlements which took place yesterday, and although one of the largest settlements of the year it has gone through quietly, but there are rumours of considerable losses. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/10½. Banks.—H. & S. Banks changed hands at \$870 ex. 71. The Hongkong quotation is \$865 sellers, and the London quotation is £92.10. Marine & Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—The only business reported is in Indos, which have been placed at Tls. 65 for cash, and Tls. 67½ for March. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyds. The statements made by sundry brokers of heavy shortage in this stock for Dec. has proved, as we believe, mythical. Probably there are a few short sellers, but if so, they had no trouble in supplying shares for the December settlement, and the quotation of Tls. 130 December delivery fell on settlement day to Tls. 12½ for immediate delivery. To-day it is impossible to give an exact quotation, but we think that shares could be had at Tls. 127½. Transactions were done during the week at Tls. 132 for March, and at this rate there are sellers. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf Co. have been placed for the December Settlement at Tls. 207½, 208 and 210, and for March at Tls. 220. There are buyers for March at this rate. Sugars, Mining, and Lands. No business. Industrial.—The only business in cottons is a sale of Ewos at Tls. 44. This is due to a forced sale the day before the settlement. Langkats. A considerable business has been done in these for December, at Tls. 207½, 210, 209, and later at Tls. 207½, while March shares changed hands at Tls. 217½, 220, and 222½. Stores and Hotels.—The only business reported is a sale of Central Hotels at \$7½. Miscellaneous.—No business. Loans & Debentures.—Aster House 8 per cent. were placed at Tls. 104.

## EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 8th January.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/0½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/0½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/0½
ON LONDON.—	
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/0½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/1½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	257½
Credits 4 months' sight	262
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	209½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	49½
Credits, 60 days' sight	50½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	152½
Bank, on demand	152½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	152½
Bank, on demand	152½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	100½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	100½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	11 p.c.p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	123
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1 p.c.p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	1 p.c.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	60½
SEVEREIGN, Bank's Buying Rate	\$9.75
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$51.70
BAR SILVER, per oz.	22½

## FREIGHT.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 48/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland), Tea, G 1½ cents per lb gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai: Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.



## AN ALMOST INCREDIBLE TALE

The following almost incredible tale—seeing that this is the 20th and not the 15th century—was sent to the *N. C. Daily News* "by a trustworthy correspondent":—

"The Governor of Honan is being spoken of by the man in the street in no very flattering terms. He had only one daughter and she died. Rumour says she was in love with an actor and pined away because she could not marry him. However, she died; her father was determined that her favourite slave should accompany her into the next world, and ordered his bodyguard to beat the poor slave girl to death. She pleaded to be allowed to take opium or anything else that would kill her, but the Governor said that could not be, for if she committed suicide she would not be free to attend her mistress. Report has it that the Governor himself got so enraged because the girl died so slowly that he himself finished the ghastly deed."

This is worse than the Canton Viceroy's recently drinking the blood of a decapitated bandit; but it shows what savage instincts may still linger in Chinese high officials.

## "TREASURES ON EARTH."

Although we reported some time ago, says the *Nanfangpao*, that the Lienohou riot was settled, it appears it was only so far as the punishment of the culprits was concerned; the more important question of reparation to the sufferers remains to be considered. It is stated that, on his return to Canton, the American Consul-General communicated to H. E. Ts'en a claim amounting to, approximately, \$100,000, including \$3,000 for damages to the Church buildings, \$23,000 for their contents, and between \$40,000 and \$50,000 for the private property of the Christian converts and missionaries. The Viceroy of Canton accordingly dispatched a telegram to the Waiwupu in this connection, at the same time instructing the Bureau of Re-organisation in his city to hold the above amount in readiness, so that the same may be handed over at any moment when required.

## MORE GRIFFINS.

Another batch of Griffins arrived from Shanghai by the s.s. *Choy Sang* on Sunday. The drawing took place at the Horse Repository on Jan. 1st, and resulted as follows:—

Pony No. 35 (grey) drawn for H.E. the Governor; pony No. 36 (dark chestnut) drawn for Mr. H. Rose; pony No. 37 (grey) drawn for Mr. Geo. Potts; pony No. 38 (bay) drawn for Mr. H. N. Mody; pony No. 39 (dun) drawn for Mr. E. Goetz; pony No. 40 (dun) drawn for Capt. Arbutnot Leslie, A.D.C.; pony No. 41 (black) drawn for Mr. D. Macdonald; pony No. 42 (grey) drawn for H.E. the Governor; pony No. 43 (grey) drawn for Mr. H. N. Mody; pony No. 44 (black) drawn for Mr. E. A. Griffin; pony No. 45 (grey) drawn for Mr. J. R. M. Smith; pony No. 46 (black) drawn for H.E. the Governor; pony No. 47 (black) drawn for Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson; pony No. 48 (grey) drawn for Mr. D. Dorabjee; pony No. 49 (grey) drawn for the Hon. Mr. R. Shewan; pony No. 50 (dark brown) drawn for Mr. H. N. Mody; pony No. 51 (chestnut) drawn for Mr. Geo. Potts; pony No. 52 (grey) drawn for Mr. W. A. Cruickshank.

## COMMERCIAL.

## RICE.

HONGKONG, 5th January. —The prices are the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.80 to \$2.85
" Round, good quality	3.60 to 3.65
" Long	3.70 to 3.75
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.90 to 2.95
" Garden, " No. 1	3.75 to 3.80
" White	4.00 to 4.05
" Fine Cargo	4.20 to 4.25

## SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 5th January.—A downward tendency continues, market being very dull.

Shekloong, No. 1, White	\$8.40 to \$8.45 per c.
Do. " 2, White	7.20 to 7.25 "
Do. " 1, Brown	6.30 to 6.35 "
Do. " 2, Brown	5.30 to 5.45 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.00 to 8.10 "
Do. " 2, White	7.10 to 7.15 "
Do. " 1, Brown	6.00 to 6.05 "
Do. " 2, Brown	5.60 to 5.65 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	10.50 to 10.60 "
Shekloong	9.55 to 9.60 "

## OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 3rd January.

Quotations are:—Allow'ce net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$1020 to — per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1050 to — do.
Malwa Older	\$1100 to — do.
Malwa V. Old	\$1200 to — do.
Persian fine quality	\$1150 to — do.
Persian extra fine	\$1200 to — do.
Patna New	\$960 to — per chest.
Patna Old	\$950 to — do.
Benares New	\$927½ to — do.
Benares Old	\$910 to — do.

## COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of Jan. 5th, state that 21 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 92,400 tons of coal. Since December 14th 13 steamers have arrived with a total of 53,100 tons of coal.

Quotations:—

Cardiff	\$15.00 \$16.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Australian	\$9.50 \$10.75 ex-ship, steady.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 nominal.
Milki Lump	\$11.00 to \$12.00 steady.
Moji Lump	\$9.00 to \$10.00 ex-ship steady.
Akaike Lump	\$9.75 to \$10.25 steady.
Bengal	\$8.75 to \$ 9.25 steady.

## COTTON.

HONGKONG, 5th January.—Fair business only. Market quiet. Stock about 2,000 bales.

Bombay	\$18.00 to \$19.00 per picul.
Bengal (New), Rangoon	18.00 to 23.00 "
and Dacca	" "
Shanghai and Japanese	26.00 to 27.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo	26.00 to 27.00 "

## MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 5th January.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	140.00 to 160.00
" 22 to 24	160.00 to 165.00
" 28 to 32	167.50 to 175.00
" 38 to 42	180.00 to 190.00

Reported sales 18,000 bales.

## COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	\$2.20 to \$2.25
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
8.4 lbs.	3.00 to 4.00
9 to 10 lbs.	4.10 to 5.30
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.80 to 3.00
58 to 60 "	3.10 to 3.60
64 to 66 "	3.80 to 5.40
Fine	6.10 to 8.00
Book-folds	5.30 to 8.10
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.80 to 1.00
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.20 to 2.30
7lbs. (32 " )	2.70 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 " ), Mexs.	2.25 to 2.70
7lbs. (32 " )	2.90 to 3.20
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.25 to 3.80
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½	5.10 to 8.00
to 14 lbs. )	

## FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	1.75 to 3.70
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Brocades—Dyed	0.13½ to 0.15
Chintzes—Assorted	0.09 to 0.30
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.23 to 0.45
Velveteens—18 in.	0.21 to 0.25

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.52	per dozen to 1.00
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## WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops 0.63	per yard to 2.00
German	" "
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.20	to 3.00
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs.	7.75 to 8.90
Assorted	7.90 to 9.05
Camlets—Assorted	20.00 to 31.00
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches	18.00 to 21.00
Assorted	" "
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	" "

Blankets—5 to 12 lbs.	0.60 to 1.50
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## METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	4.25 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.20 to —
Swedish Bar	4.30 to —
Small Round Rod	4.60 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	6.50 to —
Wire, 16/25 oz.	9.50 to —
Wire Rope, Old	3.00 to —
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	11.20 to —
Australian	1.20 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	4.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	43.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	43.00 to —
Composition Nails	— to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	— to —
Tin	87.00 to —
Tin-Plates	7.00 to —
Steel ½ to ½	— to —
Quicksilver	120.00 to —
Window Glass	5.00 to —

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 27th Dec., 1905.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 37.25
Do. Seconds	" 32.50
Buffalo hides, Best Selected	" 17.75
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white color	" 59.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	" 7.80
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or	" 12.00
Poochi	" 11.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	" (nom.)
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" 4.00
Jute	" 9.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" 8.80
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow	" (nom.)
and/or Macheng	" 8.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" 9.80
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	" 16.20
Animal Tallow	" 18.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	" (nom.)
Do. Plum db.	" "
Tobacco, Tingchow	" "
Do. Woukong	" "
Black Bristles	" "
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck	" "
" " Wild Duck	" "
Turmeric	" 3.70
Sesamum Seed	" (nom.)
Sesamum Seed Oil	" "
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	" 8.30
Wood Oil	" (nom.)
Tea Oil	" (nom.)

Per steamer *Hector*, sailed on 21st December. Beyruth:—50 cases cassia. For Antwerp:—20 boxes bristles. For Havre or London or Hamburg:—50 boxes bristles. For Amsterdam or Antwerp:—200 packages merchandise. For London:—62 cases chinaware, 550 rolls mats, 915 bales canes, 325 casks ginger, 1350 packages merchandise. For London or Glasgow:—250 casks ginger, 650 cases ginger. For London or Hamburg:—20 cases essential oil, 135 bales canes. For London or Continent:—25 cases bristles. For Glasgow:—3 bales straw cuffs. For Hamburg:—35 cases paper, 5 cases human hair, 60 cases aniseed, 50 cases galnuts, 496 cases glangal, 112 bales canes, 19,958 ingots copper. For Amsterdam:—36 bales chinaware, 175 bales canes. For Amsterdam or Rotterdam:—45 cases ginger. For Rotterdam:—275 rolls mats. For Antwerp:—100 boxes bristles, 400 bales bamboo scraps.

Per steamer *Chusan*, sailed on 30th December. For London:—2 cases lacquer ware, 80 chests tea (from Foochow), 12 packages tea (optional), 90 bales raw silk, 1 bale pierced cocoons, 2 cases feathers, 4 cases silks, 2 packages sundries, 1 case curios, &c., 4 cases cigars, 4 cases blackwoodware, 7 cases manila hats, 175 bales canes, 377 rolls mat sand matting.



## SHIPPING.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December—

## ARRIVALS.

- 30, Alésia, German str., from Hamburg.  
 30, Athens, British str., from Chinkiang.  
 30, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Anping.  
 30, Helgø, German str., from Canton.  
 30, Holstein, German str., from Haiphong.  
 30, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Pakhoi.  
 30, Knivsberg, German str., from Canton.  
 30, Kouangsi, French str., from Shanghai.  
 30, Quinta, German str., from Port Louis.  
 30, Rhaetia, German str., from Vladivostok.  
 30, Toonau, Chinese str., from Canton.  
 30, Trocas, British str., from Singapore.  
 30, Yunnan, British str., from Canton.  
 31, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.  
 31, Haiching, British str., from Swatow.  
 31, Hup, French str., from Kwangchowwan.  
 31, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.  
 31, Oceano, British str., from Swatow.  
 31, Shaohsing, British str., from Canton.  
 31, Signal, German str., from Bangkok.  
 31, Tungshing, British str., from Canton.  
 31, Ya-shing, British str., from Canton.

January—

- 1, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.  
 1, Evandale, British str., from Newcastle.  
 1, Kohsichang, German str., from Bangkok.  
 1, Kowloon, German str., from Chinkiang.  
 1, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., from Yokohama.  
 1, Pyrrhus, British str., from Liverpool.  
 1, Rubi, British str., from Manila.  
 1, Tydeus, British str., from Shanghai.  
 2, Calliope, British str., from Moji.  
 2, Chihli, British str., from Canton.  
 2, Coulsdon, British str., from Shanghai.  
 2, Emma Luyken, Ger. str., from Canton.  
 2, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.  
 2, Panther, Austrian cruiser, from Saigon.  
 2, Reigate, British str., from Newcastle.  
 2, Shantung, British str., from Java.  
 3, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.  
 3, A. Apoor, British str., from Calcutta.  
 3, Chunsang, British str., from Wuhu.  
 3, Fausang, British str., from Sourabaya.  
 3, Franklyn, British str., from Port Kemble.  
 3, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.  
 3, Indramayo, British str., from London.  
 3, Kampot, French str., from K'chauwan.  
 3, Monadnock, U.S. monitor, from Canton.  
 3, Otterspool, British str., from Moji.  
 3, Patroclus, British str., from Liverpool.  
 3, Roon, German str., from Bremen.  
 3, Taiyuan, British str., from Melbourne.  
 3, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.  
 4, Changchow, British str., from Canton.  
 4, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.  
 4, Dakota, British str., from Canton.  
 4, F. Hermanos, Amr. str., from Manila.  
 4, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.  
 4, Helene, German str., from Swatow.  
 4, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.  
 4, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., from S. Francisco.  
 4, Shantung, British str., from Canton.  
 4, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.  
 5, Castor, Norwegian str., from Singapore.  
 5, Choysang, British str., from Canton.  
 5, Haiching, British str., from Swatow.  
 5, Hercules, Norwegian str., from K'notzu.  
 5, Kashing, British str., from Chinkiang.  
 5, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Canton.  
 5, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.  
 5, Rhenania, German str., from Hamburg.  
 6, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.  
 6, Ischia, Italian str., from Bombay.  
 6, Lyeemoon, German str., from Kobe.  
 6, Manningtry, British str., from Pasoran.  
 6, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.  
 6, Mercedes, British str., from Weihaiwei.  
 6, Sumatra, British str., from Antwerp.  
 6, Taming, British str., from Manila.  
 7, Haimun, French str., from Pakhoi.  
 7, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.  
 7, Hangsang, British str., from Canton.  
 7, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.  
 7, Palma, British str., from Yokohama.  
 7, P. Waldemar, Ger. str., from Yokohama.  
 7, Sirocco, British str., from Moji.  
 7, Triumph, German str., from Shanghai.

December—

## DEPARTURES.

- 29, Benarty, British str., for Nagasaki.  
 29, Changchow, British str., for Canton.  
 29, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.  
 29, Gerd, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.  
 29, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.

- 29, Lyra, American str., for Tacoma.  
 29, M. Struve, German str., for Canton.  
 29, Pakling, British str., for Shanghai.  
 29, Shaohsing, British str., for Canton.  
 29, Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.  
 29, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.  
 30, Algon, British str., for San Francisco.  
 30, Arcadia, German str., for Singapore.  
 30, Chusan, British str., for Europe.  
 30, Empire, British str., for Shanghai.  
 30, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.  
 30, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.  
 30, Loungsang, British str., for Manila.  
 30, Moumouthshire, Brit. str., for Nagasaki.  
 30, Oceano, British str., for Shanghai.  
 30, Rhaetia, German str., for Odessa.  
 30, Sungkiang, British str., for Cebu.  
 30, Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.  
 30, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.  
 31, Alésia, German str., for Shanghai.  
 31, Arroyo, British str., for Calcutta.  
 31, Athens, British str., for Canton.  
 31, Dagmar, German str., for Bangkok.  
 31, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.  
 31, Helene, German str., for Swatow.  
 31, Indravelli, British str., for Durban.  
 31, Knivsberg, German str., for Shanghai.  
 31, Nicomedia, German str., for Portland.  
 31, Nippon, Austrian str., for Trieste.  
 31, Patchaburi, German str., for Bangkok.  
 31, Phraung, German str., for Bangkok.  
 31, Yuunan, British str., for Shanghai.  
 31, Zibenghla, British str., for Amoy.

January—

- 1, Choysang, British str., for Canton.  
 1, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.  
 1, Manaton, British str., for Calcutta.  
 1, Oceano, British str., for Borneo.  
 1, Sibirien, Danish str., for Yokohama.  
 1, Tungshing, British str., for Shanghai.  
 2, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.  
 2, Forstiek, German str., for Taintao.  
 2, Kouangsi, British str., for Shanghai.  
 2, Kowloon, German str., for Canton.  
 2, Shaohsing, British str., for Manila.  
 2, Tean, British str., for Manila.  
 2, Toonau, Chinese str., for Shanghai.  
 2, Yiksang, British str., for Shanghai.  
 3, Chunsang, British str., for Canton.  
 3, Coulsdon, British str., for Singapore.  
 3, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Tamsui.  
 3, Hue, French str., for Kwangchowwan.  
 3, J. D. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.  
 3, Katanga, British str., for Newcastle.  
 3, Machew, German str., for Swatow.  
 3, Onsang, British str., for Singapore.  
 3, Poschan, German str., for Ocean Island.  
 3, P. R. Luitpold, German str., for Europe.  
 3, Pyrrhus, British str., for Nagasaki.  
 4, Anping Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.  
 4, Bourbon, French str., for Saigon.  
 4, Chihli, British str., for Nagasaki.  
 4, Cranly, British str., for Chinwantao.  
 4, Hangsang, British str., for Canton.  
 4, Holstein, German str., for Haiphong.  
 4, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.  
 4, Indramayo, British str., for Shanghai.  
 4, Kampot, Fr. str., for Kwangchowwan.  
 4, Patroclus, British str., for Shanghai.  
 4, Roon, German str., for Shanghai.  
 5, Amara, British str., for Swatow.  
 5, Changchow, British str., for Shanghai.  
 5, China, Amr. str., for San Francisco.  
 5, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.  
 5, Hanyang, British str., for Wuhu.  
 5, Helene, German str., for Hoihow.  
 5, Hinsang, British str., for Shanghai.  
 5, Lennox, British str., for Calcutta.  
 5, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.  
 5, Progress, German str., for Nagasaki.  
 5, Trocas, British str., for Palambang.  
 5, Tydens, British str., for London.  
 6, Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.  
 6, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.  
 6, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.  
 6, Kashing, British str., for Canton.  
 6, Kohsichang, German str., for Bangkok.  
 6, Namsang, British str., for Calcutta.  
 6, Otterspool, British str., for Moji.  
 6, Rhenania, German str., for Shanghai.  
 6, Rubi, British str., for Manila.  
 6, Shajahan, British str., for Saigon.  
 6, Shansi, British str., for Chefoo.  
 6, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.  
 6, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.  
 7, Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.  
 7, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.  
 7, Hillary, British str., for Foochow.

- 7, Quinta, German str., for Chinkiang.  
 7, Shantung, British str., for Samarang.  
 7, Sumatra, British str., for Shanghai.

## PASSENGER LIST.

## ARRIVED.

Per *Oesana*, for Hongkong from London, Messrs. P. Routledge, A. Wilson, J. C. Wilden, R. Hutchinson, A. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Culliford and Mr. Lang; from Marseilles, Messrs. Denny, Putley, Coleman, Moyné and Capt. Thompson; from Brindisi, Messrs. Latimer and Keeney; from Bombay, Messrs. J. J. Fisher and R. Thompson; from Singapore, Mr. Carre; for Manila from Gibraltar, Mr. Ordoveza; for Shanghai from London, Rev. Page, Mr. and Mrs. Noorcock, Messrs. Watson and Ker, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell Murray and Mr. Brodie; from Marseilles, Mr., Mrs. and 2 Misses Inglis, Messrs. Desborough, Dunlop, Cruickshank and Mrs. Chichester; from Bombay, Mr. Sethna; from Colombo, Mr. Prior; from Penang, Messrs. Hessen and Cumini; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Giles and Mr. Fordville; for Kobe from Marseilles, Mr. Barber; for Yokohama from London, Messrs. Ritson and Constable, Mrs. Bulfeel and Miss Leslie; from Marseilles, Mr. Kempton; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Shakespeare.

Per *Roon*, from Bremen, Miss. Alice Doellinger, Heine. Beisner; from Antwerp, Mrs. Tidbury; from Southampton, Dr. Wm. McGregor and Mr. R. A. Parry; from Genoa, Mrs. v. Stranch, Mrs. v. Woldow-Steinkopel, Mr. A. Metzler, Assessor A. Full, Ad. Dattou, Willy Albers, F. Guyet, Dr. W. Wendland, Messrs. H. Wendt, M. Bergmann, H. Linkmeyer, Joaquim Mustaros, Dr. Webb Anderson, Messrs. Robert Hug, H. Martin, Eman. Lindenberg, Herm. Horstmann, Walter Simon; from Naples, Mr. F. Maitland; from Penang, Mr. S. Yamaguchi; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. E. Fiegel, Mrs. v. d. Wonde, Rev. Bro. Cornelius, Messrs. Phillips and P. W. Matthews.

Per *Rhenania*, from Europe, Misses Harlow and Wright, Messrs. Friedr. Clausen, Henning. Conrad, Park, Hansen, Hultin, Lamprecht, Nestiwaun, Pegler, Pfues, Richter, Spanjenberg, Wedeking, Weidner, Wright, Hamkin, and Stein.

## DEPARTED.

Per *Chusan*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Messrs. Brodlik and T. Okamoto, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Hamersley; for Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Moses; for Port Said, Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Bawn, Mrs. E. G. Leigh, Mrs. M. E. Jones, Messrs. Thos. D. Witt, R. G. Braschi, Mrs. Carrie Spalding, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Watson, Messrs. C. A. G. Hodgson, C. B. M. Hodgson; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Clark A. Miller, Mrs. John A. Ross and Mr. George Palmer; for London, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Fabling and Mr. R. H. Gretton.

Per *Roon*, for Shanghai, Messrs. W. H. Burt, J. Focke, L. S. Plummer, J. V. Anderson, K. Kaje, R. M. Eisenstark, H. J. Johanson, Paterson, Mrs. Benker, Mrs. Green, Mrs. D. Christie; for Nagasaki, Messrs. K. Mori, Nakata and Amano; for Kobe, Messrs. Itoh, Sugimoto and Mida, Mr. and Mrs. Minotian; for Yokohama, Messrs. J. H. Dresser, J. F. Supon, Danjanani and G. Delarain.

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